Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-217 *8 November 1990*

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Cuba

October Revolution Anniversary Celebrations Noted

At Soviet Friendship Association

FL0711154290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Report by Gisela Bell Heredia]

[Text] A political ceremony and cultural show, prepared with refined taste, were held at the seat of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association to mark the 73d anniversary of the great socialist October Revolution. Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez, our country's first cosmonaut and first vice president of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association, was the keynote speaker. In his speech, he highlighted the ties of friendship and solidarity that link Cubans and Soviets.

[Begin Tamayo recording] Not a single sphere of our economic, scientific-technical, or social development is without the indelible stamp of Soviet cooperation as a confirmation of the highest principles of proletariat internationalism. [end recording]

In the cultural part of the program, the large number of people who overflowed the association's gardens listened to such popular pieces as Shostakovich's "Romance," and (White's) "Beautiful Cuban Lady," played majestically by the children of the violin section of the (Manuel Saumell) School of Music.

The Rosalia de Castro dance troupe and the troupe from the Soviet Children's School also performed for the audience, which included delegations from the USSR who are visiting this capital, Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov, and Sergio Corrieri, president of the ICAP [Cuban Friendship With the Peoples Institute].

All those present, both Cubans and Soviets, hailed the 73d anniversary of the great socialist October Revolution.

FAR Presents Medals to Soviets

FL0711193790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] A wreath was placed today at the monument to the Soviet internationalist soldier to mark the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Present at the ceremony were Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, first alternate to the minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], other generals, chiefs, and officers of the FAR, and Yuriy Petrov, the USSR ambassador to Cuba.

[Begin FAR Colonel Jose Quevedo recording] The State Council of the Republic of Cuba, exercising the powers conferred upon it, and at the proposal of the minister of the FAR, has approved the following resolution: To bestow the Ernesto Che Guevara Order in the second degree, and the Internationalist Fighter Medal, Second Class, on the Soviet military specialists present here, in recognition of their outstanding participation in the internationalist struggle of solidarity extended to the FAR and in the strengthening of the ties of friendship and combative fraternity existing between the two armed forces, on the anniversary of the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. [end recording]

Army Strives for Self-Sufficiency in Food

FL0711170690 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Statement by First Lieutenant Pedro Manuel Reyes, "youth leader of the Central Army;" place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The activities that we have incorporated into our command to support the food program, basically by making our units self-sufficient in the production of food, have been initiated in compliance with Instruction No. 26 from the chief of the political section which calls on us to find, through new solutions, mass programs, and youth programs and methods, ways to meet the main demands and needs of our units so as not to require from the nation's economy any product that could diminish supplies for the people's consumption.

In the Army, we have taken on the task of promoting youth activities, consisting primarily of agricultural tasks, in which we have turned to traditions resulting from our fighters' daily routine and to the exploitation of large tracts of our country's virgin lands. Some units have had such good results in this area that they are not currently receiving any kind of agricultural products from the national economy. Similarly, using youthful methods, our units have begun to breed poultry, swine, cows, and goats. The breeding of rabbits has also been encouraged. This meat has become a part of our diet as a result of the efforts of youths who have brought these animals from their homes. The development of this activity has been promoted in our larger units.

Defines Role in Economic Crimes

FL0711215690 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The soldiers and officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] have the legal authority to act in case of violations of the law and should not allow a single act against society to occur. This duty was ratified by the delegates attending the fifth conference of the party in the Helicopter Regiment. This is the first conference of its type to be held in the Army. It took place at the Camilo Cienfuegos Military School in Cienfuegos. The participants of the conference also supported the idea of fighting the tendency to divert funds, misappropriation, and other violations that are caused by the lack of economic and administrative controls.

The Cienfuegos Helicopter Regiment has had not accident for three years and maintains a high level of combative training and preparedness. The Central Army

was named the best command in the FAR. Its members are committed to maintain this status at any cost.

Sancti Spiritus Court Tries 17 for Embezzlement

FL0811124090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The trial against 17 former officials and workers of the (Sierte) joint municipal retail enterprise in Sancti Spiritus has begun in the provincial court. The legal procedure is based on charges of embezzlement and other damages caused to the national economy. Missing inventory valued at over 1 million pesos was detected at the (Sierte) enterprise and investigators estimate that over 100,000 pesos was embezzled. Other charges against the defendants include forgery of private documents and misappropriation of financial and material resources.

The oral and public hearing taking place in the Sancti Spiritus provincial court is based on Declaration No. 52 pertaining to witnesses and [words indistinct].

Aldana Meets With Cypriot Party Leader

FL0711224290 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Carlos Aldana Escalante, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, met today in this capital with Dhimitrios Khristofias, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Restorative Party of the Working People of Cyprus. Ideas and experiences regarding the work between the two parties aimed at strengthening bilateral relations were exchanged during the meeting, which was held in a cordial and friendly manner.

Khristofias, who traveled to Cuba on Tuesday at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee, was elected secretary general of the Central Committee of the Restorative Party of the Working People on 22 April 1988. The distinguished guest became member of the Progressive Organization of Secondary Education Students at age 14, and at 18 he joined the young people's organization. He later joined the labor federation and finally joined the party.

Inter-Caribbean

Caricom Challenges World Bank Regional Study

FL0711162590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1439 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 7, CANA—The Caribbean Community (Caricom) has taken issue with a World Bank study on the Community's trade policies and regional economic integration in the 1990's.

Challenges to the World Bank's study include the financial institution's suggestions for drastic reductions in tariff structure, and also changes in its industrial policy, according to a Caricom Secretariat document obtained by the Caribbean News Agency (CANA). The response has followed discussion at this year's Caricom summit in Jamaica of the World Bank study, and suggestions that the matter should perhaps be the subject of attention by a special working meeting of technicians drawn from the Community.

The Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) is a 17-year-old, 13-member economic grouping, with a population of just more than five million; combined regional gross national product (GNP) of U.S. 10 billion dollars; and a total trade volume of approximately U.S. 11 billion, or about the equivalent of the Community's external debt as of 1989.

The purpose of the World Bank study was to develop a proposal for "a consistent,long-term action programme for implementing an export-oriented growth strategy in the region as a whole." The study, made available to governments some seven months ago, also paid attention to the experience with regional economic cooperation and planned regional reforms, in order to determine:

A. Whether the current regional agreements are consistent with and supportive of a longer-term strategy of export-oriented growth; and

B. What type of regional support can best further the implementation of this strategy.

In criticising the impact of the Community's trade policies, the World Bank study has claimed that Caricom's external trade policy regimen "is not conducive to an export-led growth strategy, particularly in the MDC's" (More Developed Countries of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana, and Barbados).

The study urges a drastic reduction of the Community's tariff structure from 10 percent to 20 percent as the longer term target for Caricom's proposed Common External Tariff (CET). And it takes the overall view that the trade policy provisions of the Caricom agreements "are aimed at increasing regional economic welfare over and above the welfare improvements which each member country could hope to achieve individually."

Critical of the Community's industrial and agricultural trade policies, the study's major focus in arguing for a coordinated regional policy reform programme has been placed on increasing export growth. But in its response document, the Community points to a much broader range of ojectives of Caricom, among them, the promotion of balanced development; increased diversification within the economies and within the sectors of the various economies; the creation of production linkages and the greater utilisation of regional resources, including raw materials. Another objective of the Community is greater efficiency in industrial and agricultural production directed at regional and extra-regional markets.

Questioning the lack of clarity in the World Bank study's connection between import liberalisation and export promotion, the Caricom document states that there is an "implicit assumption" in the bank's report that the region, and every country in the common market, "will have a comparative advantage in the production of some internationally tradeable product."

"Developments in technology, and the fact that the Caricom members are in competition with several countries with different characteristics," argues Caricom in its response, "have opened this assumption to very serious questions."

In addressing the bank's analysis and proposals on trade policy, the Caricom document said that the study has presented "stylized facts" which, when put in context of the features of Caricom, "suggest that net trade diversion in the region is more likely than net trade creation." But this assumption is, in the judgment of Caricom, not supported with evidence.

While noting that the study supports the direction of the policymakers in the Caribbean to revise the Common External Tariff, Caricom is questioning the contention of the World Bank that the tariff levels should be reduced to 10-20 percent "without adequate justification." It has been pointed out that because of the Community's awareness of the need to review the level and structure of the CET, there is now a movement towards a single common tariff by mid 1994, and a commitment to constant review of the tariff, with a view to making changes as warranted by external and internal economic circumstances.

(At present, the Economic Affairs Secretariat of the seven-member grouping of Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has been requested by the Antigua and Barbuda government to subject to a speedy review the implications of the Persian Gulf crisis in the implementation of the 11th Caricom Summit's decision to implement a common external tariff from January next year. The Caricom governments appear divided on the suggestion from Antigua and Barbuda, and the issue is expected to be discussed at the forthcoming one-day informal Caricom Summit in Jamaica on December 14.)

In examining what the study has to say on Caricom's agricultural policy, the Community takes the view that it "is not clear whether the trade reform measures proposed in the World Bank document would stimulate exports or reverse the decline of the agricultural sector."

The experience of Jamaica with liberalisation of agricultural imports has been cited by Caricom as an example of why trade measures proposed in the World Bank study may prove counter-productive. It is expected that following the World Bank's consideration of Caricom's response to aspects of its comprehensive study, there would be a meeting of Caricom officials to clarify any areas of differences about the overall trade, economic, and other objectives of the Caribbean Community.

Barbados

UWI Poll Shows Preference for State Ownership

FL0711180090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1706 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 7, CANA—Barbadians generally appear in favour of state ownership despite the growing global trend of privatization of state assets, according to an opinion poll.

The poll, conducted for the Nation Publishing Company by University of the West Indies (UWI) researcher, Dr. Patrick Emmanuel, asked 1,015 persons if they felt the government should sell its interests in seven enterprises involved in health care, broadcasting, tourism, cement manufacturing, and public transport.

Over 50 percent of respondents supported the retention of state ownership of the St. Joseph Hospital, the Transport Board, Hilton Hotel, and the radio service of the Caribbean Broadcasting corporation (CBC). Support for retention of state ownership of Heywoods Holiday Resort, and the Arawak Cement Company, a joint venture with the Trinidad and Tobago government, was also strong. The exception was CBC Television, whose privatization was favoured by 41 percent.

Concluded Dr. Emmanuel: "The general level of support for state enterprises suggests that there is not strong ideological opposition to the notion of state ownership."

Both opposition parties here have said they would privatize loss-making state enterprises if they win forthcoming general elections, expected by mid-1991.

Haiti

CEP Disqualifies More Presidential Candidates

FL0711195990 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Last evening the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] eliminated another two candidates for failure to comply with legal qualification requirements. According to the CEP, they are: Clemard Joseph Charles, a fugitive from the United States courts who legally resides in New York, and former president Leslie Manigat who cannot run because, as Article 134.3 of the Constitution clearly states, once someone has been elected president, he cannot be reelected for five years.

This latest decision by the CEP took place last night. it brings the number of disqualified presidential candidates to twelve. Again, the candidates previously eliminated by the CEP are as follows: Marie-Colette Jacques, Claude Raymond, Joseph Octave Albert, Paul Arcelin, Francois Etienne Raphael, Roger Lafontant, Gregoire Eugene, Louis Eddy Jeanty, Dieuveuil Joseph and Jacquelin Despeignes. [passage omitted]

Father Aristide's Return From U.S. Visit Noted

FL0711203590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The leader of the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], Reverend Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, presidential candidate, returned to Haiti yesterday afternoon on American Airlines flight. He arrived from the United States where he had spent two days. Speaking at the airport, Father Aristide called for cooperation and unity among democrats, so that democracy can be established in Haiti. Reporter Jean-Marie Ferari was at the airport.

[Reporter] It was on the afternoon of this Monday [5 Nov 90] that the FNCD leader, Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide, arrived after a trip to Miami and New York. Hundreds of supporters have been waiting on the street in front of the airport since noon to demonstrate support. It was under strong military security that Father Aristide disembarked from the plane and entered a car to go home. [passage omitted]

Evans Paul, alias K-Plim, a member of the delegation that accompanied Father Aristide to the United States, considers the trip a success. It allowed the FNCD to see that the Haitians of the diaspora accept Father Aristide's presidential candidacy. He also described the Mass that was celebrated in Miami Stadium in Little Haiti.

Following are excerpts from Father Aristide's address in Miami Stadium to the Haitians living in Miami:

[Begin Aristide recording] [Applause] Alone, we are weak. Together, we are strong. Tightly united, we are an avalanche. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Telecomm Director on Plans for Future Satellites

PA0811032390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0111 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Carlos Laras Sumano, director of Telecommunications of Mexico (Telecomm), has reported that the enterprise will install integrated service centers at 56 strategic points throughout the country during 1990.

Telecomm is one of the pillars of the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol) because it is responsible for maintaining communications with the country's isolated regions and integrating the nation into worldwide technological development.

He reported that, to carry out those objectives, 56 integrated service centers will be installed. First, they will be placed in five airports in the country's interior and in the 16 political delegations in the federal district.

In those centers, the public will have access to national and international telex, telegraph, telegrams via telephone, facsimile, long distance telephone, and electronic funds transfer services.

Increased communication with the country's isolated areas has been achieved with the two existing Mexican satellites, and with the third satellite, which will be put into orbit in 1994, Mexico will contribute to Latin American unity.

Laras Sumano said the commercial exchange, demanded by the current sociopolitical and economic reorganization of the world, will also be fostered, and that Mexico will be on par with the developed countries that use complex satellite communications systems.

Telecomm also operates the telegram via telephone and electronic funds transfer services and the basic network that guarantees communication between the country's major cities and abroad.

The Telecomm director said that, during the present year, a broader and more aggressive marketing policy will be developed and will be directed toward the full use of installed capacity, with special attention paid to the user.

The services will be assigned to public and private enterprises, thus promoting more participation from private investment and increasing competence with new services.

Based on the aforementioned plans, the Federal Microwave Network that had administered Telecomm and the Mexican Telephone System has been dissolved. Studies to decide on the network's privatization, its cost, and the procedure for accepting bids are being conducted at the Communications and Transportation Secretariat (SCT).

To grant concessions and permits for the use of Telecomm equipment, legal instruments such as secretarial agreements and releases for those providing the service have been prepared, and the general communications bylaws have been updated.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari pointed out in his second government report that efforts have been made in the field of telecommunications to guide, broaden, optimize, and continue the use of the current installations to provide service to as many people as possible.

Final specifications have been met for the satellite communications network, and studies have been conducted on the demand, financial feasibility, and commercial prospects for the new satellites, which will replace the current system when its useful life ends.

One of the nations that will vie to place the satellite "Solidarity" into orbit is the USSR through the "Glavkosmos" space agency.

The demand for service will increase by 50 percent with the new satellite, because it will be offering the "L" band for locating ships, airplanes, and cargo vehicles by radio, in addition to the "C and KU" bands.

This satellite will cover the interior of the country, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and part of the United States, Laras Sumano pointed out.

It will also allow for communication via satellite with cargo and passenger transport units transiting the national highway network, as well ships navigating the Mexican coasts, Laras Sumano concluded.

Belize

UK Reportedly To Maintain Military Presence

FL0711222590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2143 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Belize City, Nov 7, CANA—Britain has reassured Belize that its garrison of about 1,200 men will remain stationed here even if a settlement is reached with Guatemala over a territorial dispute.

Foreign minister Said Musa, who is in London for meetings with British Government officials, told local Radio Belize in a telephone interview that he was given this assurance by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. Musa said he met Hurd on Tuesday and discussed the state of the negotiations on the century-old Guatemalan claim to Belize.

"We were given the usual assurances that the British forces' presence would continue, regardless of a settlement (and that) in fact the two were in no way tied," Musa remarked.

The garrison has been stationed here since Belize gained independence from Britain in 1981. Guatemala has historically not recognised what was British Honduras, the presence of which limits the Spanish-speaking Central American country from having a significant outlet to the Caribbean.

A Belize-Guatemala joint commission established in the late 1980's to mediate the row and composed of representatives of Belize Government and opposition, the Guatemala Government as well as a British observer met earlier this year in Miami to discuss the dispute. Prime Minister George Price and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo have also met twice this year for talks on the claim. The negotiations are apparently on hold while the Guatemalans campaign for elections next Sunday.

"... We are hoping that since the new government will not be taking office until January that we can still continue to advance the discussion and hopefully present the new governmment with an advance statement on the negotiations that could hopefully lead in the near future to a treaty that could be put forward to our people through a referendum," Musa said.

He was having meetings Wednesday with the British Defence Secretary and Commonwealth secretary general.

Government, Opposition on Banker's Resignation

FL0711185090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1721 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Belize City, Nov 7, CANA—The governor of the Belize Central Bank, Alan Slusher, has resigned, a government release said Tuesday. Slusher's resignation stemmed from a dispute over his security of tenure, the release stated.

However, the PEOPLE'S PULSE, published by opposition United Democratic Party (UDP), charged that it stemmed from his displeasure with the government for overriding the Central Bank's regulation by allowing a commercial bank a loan four times above the legal ceiling.

"The governor was concerned about job security because of various experiences with the last administration (the UDP) during its last 18 months in office," said the government release. "His contract would be up in 1994, the same year for the next election."

It said that in his letter to Prime Minister George Price, who won power in September 1989, Slusher indicated that he appreciated the difficulty of the government in finding a mechanism to give him tenure of office.

"Nowhere in his letter did Mr. Slusher suggest that his impending resignation had anything to do with the operations of the bank or his relationship with the present government," said the release.

The UDP paper which said that Slusher left at the weekend for Barbados after handing in his resignation, alleged that the dispute stemmed from a loan from the private Belize Bank to Belize Foods, a company in the south of the country, involved in citrus growing and the making of concentrate. The PEOPLE'S PULSE also alleged that a director of the bank resigned in protest, citing political manipulation of the Central Bank.

Slusher, who assumed office in 1986, is reported taking up a job with the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank. Acting governor in the interim is Frank Garbutt.

El Salvador

Cristiani on Rebel Actions, Dialogue, Army

PA0711214290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1932 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said today that his government will adopt a new decision on the dialogue if the guerrilla organizations launch a military offensive, as has been rumored in recent weeks.

"We will have to see what happens at any given moment before we make a decision" about the peace process, the president warned when asked—after inaugurating a sports event in San Salvador—about an eventual rebel offensive.

Cristiani said that trying to guess "what may happen" to the negotiating process in case there is a military offensive "is just speculation."

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) today threatened to launch "a strong military action," [una accion militar doble]when refuting statements issued by Defense Minister Colonel Rene Emilio

Ponce, who said on
Monday 5 November that the Army had "disrupted" a guerrilla offensive scheduled for one of these days.

Cristiani said that the Army is prepared to prevent the guerrilla groups from attacking military positions.

The FMLN recently stepped up its attacks on military positions in San Salvador, amid a great Armed Forces' land and air deployment to prevent the rebel actions.

The government and guerrilla representatives are scheduled to meet late in November in Mexico City, with the UN's mediation, to continue discussing the Armed Forces' issue, which has brought the negotiations to a stalemate given the two parties' opposing views.

Public Security Vice Minister Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano has said that the Army is "aware" that the number of Armed Forces members (more than 55,000) represents "a burden" for the country.

"We represent a very high percentage of the country's population (more than five million people)," he emphasized, adding that the Army's reduction will be gradually carried out when the intensity of the war decreases and when the FMLN abides by the country's democratic process.

The FMLN has rejected the possibility of joining the political process before signing political agreements with the government to guarantee the democratization of El Salvador.

Government Calls Bus Strike 'Unjustified'

PA0811011090 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Passages in italics are recorded]

[Text] The government, through the Economy Ministry, described the AEAS [Association of Salvadoran Bus Owners] transportation strike as unjustified because certain agreements were signed on 23 October that dealt with this subject.

[Economy Minister Arturo Zablah] *One thing for sure, the buses that did not run on 5 and 6 November have no right to receive subsidized diesel for each day.*

The economy minister said today that the bus workers' strike has two objectives: to pressure the government and to obtain a fare hike. Engineer Zablah listed six agreements that were reached on 23 October during a meeting aimed at solving this association's problems. Thus, he considers the bus strike unjustified.

[Zablah, in progress] *....through their cooperative, allow the duty-free importation of lubricants, tires, and spares, which would save them money. In addition, they can save money by making bulk purchases without middlemen. Two, (?FIGASTE) [expansion unknown] was authorized to give a line of credit for purchasing new buses—or second-hand buses with new or rebuilt engines—with favorable repayment conditions. Three, there was also the possibility that some of these repaired buses could be transferred to the preferential service. Although under preferential service, the diesel is not subsidized, the fares are higher. Four, a higher fare was authorized from 2000 every evening.*

In the case of transport between departments, a project was discussed for a direct service with higher fares; however, the service will remain cheaper. Regarding the diesel subsidy, it was agreed to maintain the 23 gallons a day, even though only 18 gallons are actually used. Zablah was emphatic when he said that the Presidency maintains the position of creating a commission to find a solution to the problem presented by the transporters, as long as the pressure ceases.

[Zablah] *The government has said that while the pressure remains, there will be no negotiation. Once the pressure is lifted, the president will appoint a commission to analyze the other problems, provided that—and I want to be emphatic here—it is clear that public transportation fares will not be raised.*

Taking part in the news conference were Economy Minister Engineer Arturo Zablah; Deputy Economy Minister Mario Acosta; and Land Transport Director Colonel Marco Atonio Callejas, who denied certain AEAS versions that some transport personnel who backed the strike had been arrested.

Guatemala

Security Plan for Elections Being Implemented

PA0811003990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2037 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—The Guatemalan Defense and Government Ministries today put into effect a security plan called "Election-90." This plan is intended to guarantee protection for voters during the 11 November elections.

Approximately 3.2 million Guatemalans will go to the polls to elect a new president and vice president, 115 National Congress deputies, 20 Central American Parliament deputies, and 330 mayors.

Members of the National Police, the Treasury Police, the Red Cross, the National Emergency Committee, and the Amateur Radio Association, as well as volunteer and municipal firefighters are participating in the security plan.

Government Minister Colonel Carlos Morales said that the objective of the emergency plan is to provide security and peace for the voters.

Police Director Colonel Julio Caballeros warned that he has learned that some youth gangs might try to disrupt public order.

The Army and National Police today began to implement strict control measures in Guatemala City in view

of the closeness of the elections, which will be observed by 300 international figures.

Official sources said that soldiers have thoroughly searched strategic locations in search of weapons so as to prevent violent or criminal acts.

The candidates are trying to win over the votes of the undecided who, according to analysts, make up 30 percent of the voters.

PDCN's Fernandez Fears Election Fraud

PA0811011190 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 6 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] Jose "Pepe" Fernandez, presidential candidate for the Democratic Party of National Cooperation [PDCN], went to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] yesterday to express his fears regarding the possibility of an election fraud, Magistrate Mario Guerra Roldan has said.

The presidential candidate talked with the TSE authorities about the continuing charges that the ruling Christian Democratic Party is trying to alter the results of the elections.

Fernandez said he is aware of reports that some parties are willing to pay voters up to 1,000 quetzals if they vote on unofficial or counterfeit ballots and keep the real one, which they will not drop in the ballot box.

Guerra Roldan said that this is practially impossible because "an army of people (an estimated minimum of 20,000) will participate in the elections' process, beginning with the casting of the votes up until the winning candidates are announced.

The TSE official said, however, that Fernandez was told there is no possibility for an election fraud because the Guatemalan electoral system does not allow for it.

He mentioned, for example, that there are five major obstacles in the way of a violation of this sort, which was common in the past. For a fraud to take place, there would have to be an agreement among the representatives of each participating political party at the polls; this is completely illogical.

Guerra Roldan said each electoral district will count the ballots in the election for president, deputies, and mayors. The results will then be faxed to the TSE center at the Dorado Hotel. The computerized system used by this organization is "indestructible." It it is unlikely that electoral magistrates themselves will be willing to participate in a maneuver of this type. They will never do this because they swore to abide by the Consitution and the country's laws.

According to Guerra Roldan, it is possible that those who are speaking of fraud do so because they have probably reached the conclusion that they do not have a great chance of winning in the general elections. In addition, the TSE magistrate pointed out that since 1984, with the elections for the National Constituent Assembly, every possibility has been eliminated for the "traditional change of ballot boxes" while heading toward the TSE center.

PAN's Arzu Called 'Serious' Contender

PA0711192090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1352 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Report by Haroldo Sanchez]

[Text] Guatemala City, 7 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—In recent weeks, right-wing candidate Alvaro Arzu of the National Vanguard Party (PAN) has become a serious candidate for the Presidency of Guatemala.

Forty-four year old Arzu, a coffee grower and industrialist, is considered by political observers to be the Guatemalan "Cristiani" because of his strong political stand against guerrillas, corruption, and drug trafficking.

According to the latest polls, Arzu—the father of seven—is second only to Jorge Carpio Nicole of the Union of the National Center (UCN) with 21 percent of the people polled. Jorge Carpio Nicole is leading with 27 percent of the vote.

Arzu's candidacy has been bolstered by the constitutional veto banning the electoral participation of General Efrain Rios Montt (r) because Rios Montt was the president of a de facto government (1982-83).

Arzu was the only candidate who did not oppose the registration of the controversial military leader. Rios Montt had a good chance of winning, according to the polls.

Hector Posadas, a Guatemalan expert on political affairs, has told ACAN-EFE that Arzu's platform "is the same as Gen. Rios Montt's platform—only it is more polished and well presented."

He added that the former Guatemala City mayor (1986-90) is a "tough guy" who "is like (Alfredo) Cristiani," adding that if Arzu wins the elections he might create obstacles for a dialogue with the guerrillas, and he might have "serious problems" with national groups in Guatemala.

Arzo recently told ACAN-EFE: "I will not talk with the subversives if they do not stop their sabotage against the country's infrastructure," emphasizing that he was talking as a presidential candidate, "and I will maintain the same position when elected."

Some political leaders who oppose him, including Rene de Leon Schlotter, of the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD), believe that "Arzu, due to his political stubbornness, will jeopardize the dialogue with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG)."

Arzu was a member of the far-left National Liberation Movement (MLN), but he left because of a dispute with MLN leader Mario Sandoval Alarcon and later created the National Vanguard Committee in 1978.

Commenting on human rights violations in Guatemala, Arzu said "the Army is not soley responsible," even though he recognized that some cases can be attributed to the Armed Forces.

He said that unlike the current Christian Democratic President Vinicio Cerezo, he would "rule" his government rather than "fraternize" with the military.

"I can assure you that I will certainly be responsible for their actions as commander general of the Army. I will rule the military and not be afraid of them removing me from office," Arzu emphasized.

Arzo also warned that he would not negotiate power with anyone or any of the traditional political groups or "with the Army or any foreign country."

The candidate's platform includes plans to abolish poverty and destitution—"which have caused violence in many areas of the country"—if elected.

Arzu was appointed director of the Guatemalan Tourism Institute in 1978 by General Romeo Lucas Garcia, who was president of the country.

In 1982 Arzu was elected mayor of Guatemala City by a wide margin, but a coup d'etat against Lucas Garcia prevented him from doing his job.

In 1985 Arzu ran for mayor again and he received more than 1 million votes. He resigned in June, however, to campaign for the Presidency.

Nicaragua

Godoy Said Trying To Destabilize Government

PA0811003890 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy and his supporters are attempting to destabilize the government of Violeta Barrios Chamorro. Mayors in the municipalities of Chontales and Zelaya Norte who support Godoy are backing and promoting the takeover of the highway joining Juigalpa and Rama. The former contras who are participating in the takeover said that they held a meeting in Santo Domingo with the mayors, who instructed them on how the takeover should be carried out and what demands they should make of the government. Among the mayors directing the highway takeover by the allegedly demobilized rebels are the mayors of Acoyapa, La Libertad, El Rama, Muelle de Los Bueyes, and Nueva Guinea. Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega, bishop of the Dioceses of Juigalpa, is also throwing fuel onto the fire. During his Sunday homily, he harangued the people into supporting the former contras' takeover of the highway.

Government Accused of Not Keeping Land Promises

PA0711232190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Rodolfo Arguello, the Government Ministry Region 4 delegate, has told Radio Informaciones that no progress has been made in solving the problem of the demobilized contras who have taken over the Juigalpa-Rama road. UNO [National Opposition Union] mayors and politicians yesterday joined the demobilized contras who continue to block the road to Rama. At the Acoyapa junction, barricades were set up while UNO leaders called on the peasants to help put up other barricades at the entrance of Juigalpa. Despite the takeover, the situation there is calm, according to Rodolfo Arguello, Government Ministry delegate in Juigalpa.

Fabian Estrada, alias Commander Terror, said that over 800 demobilized contras have taken over 18 municipalities and communities in Guapo and Chontales. In addition, Oscar Sobalvarro, alias Ruben, said that with Mrs. Violeta Chamorro's victory, they had hoped they would not have to continue fighting and they had believed in the promises made by the government. They also never imagined there would be conflicts such as those that took place along the road to Rama and at the La Sierrita and Nueva Guinea churches. Sobalvarro confirmed that the government has not complied with even 20 percent of the promises made with the signing of the agreements on the disarmament and demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance members.

[Begin recording] [Sobalvarro] No, the government has not kept even 20 percent of its promises. It has not even kept its promises to donate land. The land issue is one of the most basic issues; one of the government's first promises was to give land to the demobilized contras for them to work on it. Not even this promise has been fulfilled. The government has not fulfilled its other promises, either.

[Reporter] What promises are you referring to?

[Sobalvarro] Well, the participation in the ministries; the return of confiscated properties; and the pension plans for the widows, war-wounded, and orphans. There are also a number of promises concerning our personal security that have still not been resolved. These include the reduction of the Army and the rounding up of weapons in the hands of civilians. [end recording]

The demobilized will not be able to solve all their problems because the government does not give them any help. Oscar Sobalvarro added that the CIAV, the International Commission of Support and Verification, gives them very limited help. The government must supplement the aid to the demobilized contras, but the contras do not see this aid coming from anywhere, Sobalvarro complained.

[Begin Sobalvarro recording] The former resistance members' situation is regretful. It is painful and sad to see the demobilized in the camps; they are still wearing

their same uniforms. The government is not giving them any aid at all. The only aid being received is from CIAV, which is an international organization. This aid, however, is limited. The few resources it provides will not permit the demobilized to solve the problems they face in civilian life. I believe the government's promise was to supplement this aid, which we are currently not receiving. Our situation is very bad. [end recording]

Former RN Commander Condemns Takeover of Roads

PA0711231190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Israel Galeano, alias Commander Franklin, top leader of the former Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], has condemned the actions spearheaded by his former allies that jeopardize peace in Nicaragua. He called on them to stop being the political pawns of some sectors; he was clearly referring to Cosep [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] and some recalcitrant UNO [National Opposition Union] parties. The former rebel leader condemned the takeover of highways and said that in 10 years of fighting the Sandinists, the contras never did that.

[Begin recording] [Galeano] I want to call on my former RN comrades in arms to stop being pawns. We are a very big group and have no need to be pawns or make alliances with any sector that wants to use us to its political advantage. It is not that land is being taken over but that public roads are being blocked, something which harms hard-working Nicaraguans. This situation constitutes a violation of the principles that drove us to take up arms. Not even in the middle of a war did we hamper free circulation. We never damaged private property or took over churches.

[Reporter] It is said the former rebels from the southern front, the members of Arde [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], are already in the mountains and are armed. Why do you think they are doing that? What can be done to make this movement, which they claim is growing each day, calm down?

[Galeano] I think those are just words. I am experienced in war; I led over 20,000 soldiers. I know the nothern and southern fronts. The reasons for the war have ended. No war can succeed when the people are not motivated to join one armed group. All I know is that those who say they are going to fight for their rights will only be engaging in acts of vandalism. This government is giving Nicaraguans all their legal rights. This country must be ruled by law and order, which are embodied in the Constitution. [end recording]

Demonstration To Support Road Blockers

PA0811012990 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Alvin Guthrie Rivers, governor of the South Atlantic Coast Autonomous Region (RAS), and the mayors of the 5th region are currently on their way to Managua to explain to government officials the demands made by the people of the town of Muelle de los Bueyes, near the city of Bluefields. Guthrie Rivers managed to bypass about 400 stranded travellers who were in Muelle de los Bueyes, waiting to go on to Bluefields and Managua.

It has been reported that the travellers from the South Atlantic Autonomous Region should arrive in Bluefields at approximately 2000, after being detained by a group of people for two days in Muelle de los Bueyes.

We learned that military authorities repressed a demonstration that took place in Muelle de los Bueyes. As a result, two injured people have had to receive medical assistance. The protesters demonstrated to show their support for the former members of the Nicaraguan Resitance who have placed obstacles on the road to Rama; the contras are demanding government compliance with the agreements made with the demobilized rebels.

The people of Muelle de los Bueyes are now demanding the dismissal of Government Ministry representative Alberto Brook. They are also demanding that Commander Roger Ramirez and Captains Navas and Cadena [not further identified] be fired. It was also reported that the offices of Radio Zinica, Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute], and the Government Ministry are still in the hands of demonstrators as we await the results of Dr. Alvin Guthrie Rivers' mission in Managua; his mission is to remove the protesters from these offices.

'Black Berets' Sent To Clear Road

PA0811020990 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] A military convoy of 15 trucks filled with the riot police, known as black berets, left this afternoon for Juigalpa, Chontales. This was reported to this station by people living near the Northern Highway. It is believed that this military contingent is being sent by the commander of the Armed Forces to clear the road to Rama, which is being blocked by various obstacles at several stretches. Meanwhile, Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren will meet with the mayors of Chontales and Boaco on 8 November.

It is believed that the presence of the riot police, or black berets, on the road to Rama might cause some confrontations between civilian demonstrators and the police. Barricades or obstacles have been placed on the road from Las Palmas, located 10 km from Juigalpa, to Rama. They have been erected by the Let Us Save Democracy civic movement. It is also believed that the people occupying government buildings in Bluefields will be ousted by special police units. The people occupying these government offices are demanding the resignation of Alberto Brook, delegate of the Government Ministry in Bluefields.

Group Occupies Government Building in Juigalpa

PA0811034990 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Nov

[Telephone interview with Carlos Lopez, member of the Political Council of the National Opposition Union (UNO) in Juigalpa, Chontales Department, by Ernesto Ramon Garcia—live]

[Text] [Lopez] At this time we are occupying the government building, in other words the governor's office. We demand that for which the UNO supporters and the Nicaraguan people struggled and continue to struggle—democracy and the safeguarding of democracy. We openly ask the people to join us in the 5th Region and to give us moral and political support as brothers.

We are willing to support the government as long as the government supports us. The people of UNO fought for change; the people of UNO will continue to struggle and support the government as long as it complies with the promises it has made to the people.

[Garcia] What are your demands to end the occupation of the governor's office? Has there been any violence during the occupation?

[Lopez] This is a peaceful action, a truly civic movement by Nicaraguans, by people who have a right to freedom of expression, and whose human rights must be respected. For the moment our political line is not harming the institutions or equipment, because we are truly civic-minded people. We are not like the Sandinists, who have caused destruction and continue to destroy. Last Monday, the police attacked a group of people who were leaving the cathedral, including children, women, and innocent bystanders, many of whom were hurt or beaten. This situation has continued. We will not permit more attacks against our people for whom we have demanded change.

[Garcia] Will the occupation continue indefinitely?

[Lopez] Until the government replies to various points, some of which I will read: Humberto Ortega's removal [as commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army], reduction in the size of the Army, and a police force respectful of the people's rights. Those are some of the demands. There are other points that I cannot mention in this interview, because they have deep political implications.

[Garcia] How many people are currently occupying the facilities?

[Lopez] Approximately 500 or 600 people, as many have not joined us yet. People are expected to come from La Palma and other surrounding areas, but armed black berets have prevented them from coming to Juigalpa. They will have to let them pass, however, because there is no army capable of stopping the people; no one can stand up against the people. It has happened in the past. Previous governments throughout our history have not respected the people's ideas, but this time we will prove that we want democracy.

Labor Unions Take Over Attorney General's Office

PA0711155090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Interview with National Employees Union [UNE] leader Douglas Zepeda by an unidentified reporter; place not given—live]

[Text] [Zepeda] We want to report that the Attorney General's Office was taken over at 0530 this morning. I want to stress that both unions, the UNE and the CTN [Nicaraguan Workers Federation], participated in the takeover. We have gone on an indefinite strike because of a salary dispute. That is what we want to report.

[Reporter] Please give us more information, Douglas. The situation is not very clear. What is your position and how do you justify this takeover?

[Zepeda] For the past three months we have been negotiating salary increases with Attorney General Dr. Duilio Baltodano and there has been no progress. We have presented our case to the Labor and Finance Ministries and the Presidency, but we have not received a satisfactory answer.

[Reporter] How many people work at the Attorney General's Office?

[Zepeda] 150 workers.

[Reporter] Tell me Douglas, what will happen to the pending cases and the other work, such as the return of property that was confiscated and expropriated by the previous administration?

[Zepeda] All work has been suspended.

[Reporter] Is Attorney General Dr. Baltodano doing anything about this situation?

[Zepeda] He has not been told yet.

[Reporter] Does this mean that both trade unions agree on the takeover?

[Zepeda] Both the CTN and UNE are in agreement. In fact, even the Labor Ministry has been notified.

[Reporter] What channels will you use to negotiate?

[Zepeda] So far, we are not using any. As I said before, Attorney General Dr. Duilio Baltodano has not shown up yet.

[Reporter] Will you negotiate this situation?

[Zepeda] Yes, we will negotiate.

Government Devalues Cordoba by 4.5 Percent

PA0811023790 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1815 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The government today devalues the cordoba by 4.5 percent on the official and parallel exchange rate. On the official and parallel market, the U.S. dollar will now be bought and sold at the rate of 1.61 million cordobas per dollar. It was previously bought and sold at the rate of 1.54 million to the dollar. Meanwhile, this weekend the U.S. dollar on the black market was being bought at 1.7 million cordobas and sold for 1.75 million cordobas.

Daniel Ortega Said Traveling to Iraq

PA0711180190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1532 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Managua, 7 Nov (AFP)—AFP has learned from Sandinist sources that former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega departed this morning for the Persian Gulf to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The Nicaraguan leader's visit is within the framework of the relations that blossomed during the eighties between the now in opposition Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the Iraqi leader.

The source did not specify the date or the nature of the Ortega-Husayn meeting, but did state that it will be held some time next week.

Before his arrival in Iraq, Ortega will make a stopover in Cancun, Mexico, where he will attend a seminar on international law on 8 November.

PRC Suspends Diplomatic Relations

PA0711183290 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The PRC today suspended its diplomatic relations with Nicaragua after the Nicaraguan Government established relations with Taiwan. According to the PRC official news agency, PRC ambassador to Nicaragua Huang Zhiliang protested to the Nicaraguan Government and said that the establishment of relations with Taiwan violates the 1985 agreement signed by the PRC and Nicaragua when the two countries first established diplomatic relations. The agreement clearly states that Taiwan is a Chinese province and that the Beijing government is the real Government of PRC.

The Nicaraguan Embassy in Beijing refused to comment on the matter; however, it is expected that the installations will be closed. Danilo Medrano, first secretary at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Beijing, said that he was surprised by his government's decision to establish relations with Taiwan. Apparently, the Nicaraguan Government established ties with Taiwan in the hopes of obtaining aid for development. Taiwan has established a $1 billion fund to help friendly developing nations.

Assembly President Criticizes Ties With Taiwan

PA0811021690 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] There were many harsh comments at the National Assembly this morning regarding the Nicaraguan Government's decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with the government of Taiwan at a time when a legislative delegation was returning from the PRC where it had received reports of possible investments and transfers of technology to Nicaragua.

Deputies believe the Foreign Ministry has been handling the country's international relations very poorly because a specific political group is exercising absolute control over those relations. The Nicaraguan Government's decision ridiculed the legislative delegation after it visited the PRC for several days.

National Assembly President Miriam Arguello Morales said the government's decision showed a lack of respect for the Nicaraguan legislature. In addition, she said, the government was not courteous enough to previously notify her of the decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Taiwan. She said that the delegation only learned of the decision when it returned to Managua. As National Assembly president, Miriam Arguello expressed these viewpoints to Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus.

Panama

Government To Resume Talks on Banking Center

PA0711232290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino says that the United States is waiting for the sectors linked to the local banks and national government to make a decision concerning the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

[Begin Mulino recording] Many of the sectors that I consulted with today held meetings to analyze the documents that I sent to them on 2 November, so that today—or tomorrow at the latest—the Foreign Ministry can hear the various opinions of groups close to the financial sector. Once the Foreign Ministry has studied these opinions, it will be ready to continue the negotiations, presenting to its counterpart—the U.S. Government—the opinions received concerning the counterproposal it put forth on the final day of the meetings held last week.

As I have said repeatedly, we will continue the consultation process with the appropriate reserved attitude. Nevertheless, I must stress that it has never been our intention to keep this issue a secret, let alone stop anyone from voicing their opinion concerning the issue. The United States knows our position, and we are aware of the U.S. Government's views. We reject certain international press agency reports that Panama is refusing to

clean up the drug trafficking and money laundering carried out through its banking center. I have said again and again that if the treaty had been limited exclusively to drug trafficking and money laundering, it would have been signed long ago.

This is, however, not the case; other crimes are involved. That is precisely why we are negotiating. I must deny once again in a most emphatic manner that the Panamanian Government and banking center have refused to sign the treaty because they want to maintain the banking center as a sanctuary for criminals involved in drugs. This is not true, and in 10 months we have proven that despite our enormous limitations, Panama is willing to combat all drug trafficking and money laundering operations. [end recording]

Linares Views Legal Assistance Treaty Talks

PA0811044090 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said today that in the next few days Panama will present its position to the United States regarding the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

[Begin recording] [Linares] We do not want to discuss the details of the treaty because we do not think it would be appropriate to do so.

[Reporter] The bar association says it would further harm the Panamanian economy.

[Linares] What would harm the Panamanian economy?

[Reporter] The document presented by the United States.

[Linares] Remember that in a negotiation, the United States has every right to present the proposals it deems advisable. We have an obligation to evaluate the proposals and to give our reply, always based on our country's best interests. That is what we are doing.

[Reporter] Is Panama maintaining its position?

[Linares] Panama's position is obviously not to sign or to authorize the signing of any treaty that may affect the Panamanian financial center. That position is being maintained as a principle. I also want to clarify that when I make such a statement it does not mean nor should it be interpreted as meaning that we are against Panama's cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and the laundering of drug money. In that aspect, Panama is willing to provide all possible cooperation. The issues being discussed have nothing to do with either drug trafficking or money laundering but with other crimes. [end recording]

EL SIGLO's Franco Under 'Preventive Custody'

PA0711202290 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Nov 90 p 12

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] After responding to questions by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, Dagoberto Franco, 34, a popular columnist of this newspaper, was told he was under preventive custody and taken to the Judicial Technical Police, where he will remain on orders from the corresponding authorities. The writer of the controversial "Commitment with Justice" column, published every day in El SIGLO, gave a deposition yesterday in connection with a suit filed by President Guillermo Endara against Franco for allegedly slanderous remarks against the president in his 31 October column entitled "Endara: The Big Fraud."

Endara felt that the column contained slanderous remarks and accused him of criminal activities, which he denied. Franco gave his statement in the morning in Cruz' office. At that time, our columnist was accompanied by his lawyer Angel Padilla Beliz. The grounds for jailing Franco, who is also finishing his last year at the University of Panama's Law School, are contained in Law No. 1 of January 1988, which amended some articles of the Penal, Civil, and Judicial Codes and outlined other norms on the crimes of slander and liable.

Franco is the author of the book "I Accuse," published after the 20 December invasion. In his book, he denounced the abuses and crimes committed during the 21 years of Panama's military dictatorship, and, because of that, he has received death threats from the people mentioned in the book.

In addition, the controversial columnist is facing liable suits filed by Endara's daughter, Marcela Endara de Yap, and former "iron" prosecutor Ana Belfon Vejas. Legal briefs connected to these cases are also being investigated by the Attorney General's Office.

[EL SIGLO in Spanish in its 6 and 7 November editions on page 5 carries the usual format for Dagoberto Franco's column. Underneath it, where the text should appear, the newspaper has published a drawing of a jail door locked with a padlock.]

Media Reaction to Detention

PA0811014790

[Editorial Report] The following is a reaction by local newspapers to the preventive arrest of EL SIGLO columnist Dagoberto Franco.

Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish on page 4 of its 7 November edition carries a 400-word editorial entitled: "Is the President Turning His Back to Us?" The editorial criticizes Franco's detention, recalling that when students of the National Institute turned their backs to President Endara and refused to pay him respect during the independence day parade, "the president said that

this was an expression from youths who know that they live in a democracy." The editorial goes on to say that President Endara then invalidates his thesis by ordering an investigation of journalist Dagoberto Franco and permitting his arrest. The editorial adds that if he could, Endara would also send many foreign journalists who say worse things about his government to the "democratic jail for disrespecting Panamanian democracy."

Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish on page 4 of its 7 November edition carries a 600-word editorial entitled: "Respect for Freedom of Expression and Against the Dictatorship's Laws." The editorial protests, saying that "the Attorney General has ordered Journalist Franco's arrest based on laws inherited from the past dictatorship." It adds that the attorney general has not shown the same "efficiency" in dealing with military and civilian members of the past regime who were known to violate human rights. The editorial says that Franco has not been given fair treatment and legal procedures have not been followed. Furthermore, it says, "former Special Prosecutor Rodrigo Miranda, who on several occasions accused the attorney general of being a member of the Medellin Cartel, has not been tried or detained." It adds that President Endara is definitely not receiving sound advice.

Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish on page 20-a of its 7 November edition in its "Counterpoint" column carries a 300-word article written by I. Roberto Eisenmann, Jr., LA PRENSA's president and editorial director, which states that "today Journalist Franco has become an important symbol in the continuous struggle for complete freedom of expression in our country." Eisenmann adds that Franco's arrest is not only unjust, but is also a moral scandal, because by contrast, "well-known criminals and members of the narcodictatorship are free and bestowed with authority." The article goes on to say that President Endara "has the moral obligation of sending a draft bill to the Legislative Assembly abrogating all the existing laws against freedom of expression used by the past dictatorship." Eisenmann adds that Endara could set a noble example by withdrawing his lawsuit against journalist Franco, and concludes by saying that "LA PRENSA, the media, and all journalists must follow this case minute by minute, because it constitutes a dangerous precedent against man's principal freedom."

Journalists Announce Demonstration

PA0811032690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 7 Nov 90 p 20-B

[Text] Many journalists and members of the media signed a manifesto yesterday saying that they are in a state of alert in light of the pressure being applied on several of their colleagues. They have announced that they will hold a demonstration before the Legislative Assembly, where they will demand immediate attention to and the abolishment of the legal guidelines that attempt to destroy the freedoms of expression, activity, and thought.

The journalists will also march on the Presidential Palace tomorrow. During the march, they will deliver the aforementioned manifesto to the president. Part of the manifesto reads:

We, the undersigned, professional and practicing journalists who work for the press, radio, and television, hereby make public this manifesto in defense of the sacred principles of freedom of expression established in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

We therefore denounce before the country the heightening of the pressure and persecution against journalists by the current government. Said actions have been obvious in the cases of journalists Damaso Garcia, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Zoila Rodriguez Jovane, Justino Gonzalez, James Aparicio, Manuel Alvarez, Aneldo Arosemena, Mara Rivera, etcetera.

We do not understand how there can be individuals who, after committing all sorts of criminal and inhuman crimes, remain unpunished.

In light of the aforementioned, we strongly repudiate the fact that journalist Dagoberto Franco, whose moral and professional values are highly recognized by everyone, has been arrested. This violates the right of a person to be presumed innocent until proven guilty as well as the right to exercise freedom of expression as established in Articles 37 and 38 of the Constitution.

Franco Released on Bail

PA0811043090 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Passages in italics are recorded]

[Text] Journalists in Panama City are organizing a march to protest the arrest of journalist Dagoberto Franco after he was released by the judicial authorities yesterday. Here are the details: The newspaper column written by journalist Dagoberto Franco will probably be read by thousands of people tomorrow, following his release yesterday on a bail of 5,000 balboas.

[Franco] *Bail is usually 100 balboas even though Law One of 5 January 1988, which deals with slander and libel, establishes that the minimum bail should be 1,000 balboas.*

Journalists reacted strongly to the arrest of the EL SIGLO journalist, describing the action as a means to restrict freedom of expression.

[LA PRENSA editorial director Roberto Eisenmann] *In addition, there is the moral problem. It is really a scandal that journalist Dagoberto was arrested for writing a column that the president did not like. Meanwhile, the white-collar criminals, whom we all know as the worst*

ones to come out of this country, freely circulate in the streets. That is really scandalous.

Various newspapers and other media today highlighted the news of the action against Dagoberto Franco while officials of the previous regime are free and have not been prosecuted.

[Journalist Mayin Correa] *Look, I reported that an intimate friend of the president was seen leaving the house of Fito Duque [Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, former Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA director]. I do not know what he was doing there. He said he had been there just on business. This visit occurred, however, when Fito Duque was supposedly a fugitive. It is known that money, power, and cronyism still function in the country and that there are many criminals who have used powerful friends in the current government. This is quite obvious. We report it every day. The thing is that these actions are not paid with checks and no receipts are given. We do not have proof, but these cases are so visible that there is no doubt that there is influence peddling in this government.*

Columnist Franco stopped writing for two days because he was being held at the Judicial Technical Police. The space in which his column is published in EL SIGLO was blank. According to the authorities, justice will be the same for everyone without any distinctions. This is what Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said today:

[Cruz] *No journalist has privileges. All individuals are obliged to provide information on possible crimes to the Attorney General's Office.*

Dagoberto Franco was arrested because he expressed his opinion, stating in his column that the president could be linked to money laundering because he was an official of a bank accused of that illegal activity.

[Franco] *I was telling the president that in my view, I could not believe how, being a member of the board of directors of Interbanco for 20 years, he could not know that the bank was laundering money. If the bank laundered money, and he was a member of that bank for 20 years, then he definitely laundered money also. This is just simple logic.*

The media continue to harshly criticize the actions of the authorities, stressing that the Noriega regime's laws are being maintained and are now being used to restrict the freedom of speech.

[Mayin Correa] *I can assure you that there is intimidation of journalists, especially the young journalists who have begun to work in a democracy. That is very dangerous.*

Nevertheless, journalists must know the difference between freedom of speech and libertinism so as not to commit errors. This was pointed out by former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who received the Nobel Peace prize.

[Arias] *This might cause a reaction by groups in society, and it might mean a step back in the gradual evolution towards a system in which individual and collective rights can be enjoyed.*

[Vice President Guillermo Ford] *I do not believe in the practice of suing people. I have never sued anyone for anything in my life. I think criticisms must be refuted. If someone criticizes me and I do not agree with it, I will refute such criticism. I believe there must be peace and mutual respect between the media and officials and individuals.*

[Attorney General Cruz] *I am criticized when I am slow in acting and I am also criticized when I act quickly.*

[Unidentied Reporter] *But you are doing so with journalists.*

[Cruz] *You can see that I am not acting against journalists. I am acting against all slanderers.*

Even though Dagoberto Franco was released, journalists will stage a march tomorrow that will leave from Porras Plaza at 1000. We will hold this protest so that freedom of speech will really exist in our country.

Argentina

President Menem Comments on Subversion, Economy

PY0711151290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0952 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Nov (NA)—President Carlos Menem has stressed that "there is no possibility whatsoever of a subversive resurgence" in the country, adding that the assault on a school in Barrio Barracas in Buenos Aires was "an isolated action by wild people who will be held in a secure place."

Even though Menem admitted that "terrorism throughout the world has developed spectacularly," he said that "fortunately, in Argentina these actions are isolated events by wild people who are still at large but will be put in a secure place."

He also said that "the inflation rate will drop even further" in November because the indices that were registered in October "show a clear downward trend."

He minimized the creation of a multisectorial opposition group headed by dissident Peronists from the Group of Eight on the grounds that "there is just one Justicialism, and it is represented by the Justicialist Party. The rest is nonsense."

Menem made these statements shortly after a ceremony sponsored by the Coordinating Board of Merchant Activities (CAME) at the Alvear Palace Hotel last night to mark Commerce Day.

The ceremony was attended by CAME head Osvaldo Cornide, Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] Government Trustee Maria Julia Alsogaray, merchant leader Fernando Cavalieri, former Defense Minister Italo Luder, and Deputy Alberto Natale of the democratic progressive sector, among others.

In his speech, Menem urged people "to ask the market" about the reasons for the gap in the exchange rate because "the market is the natural regulator of the exchange rate." He said the government "will give no guarantees to people who fold their arms" because, he said, "the Argentina of amusement ended on the day this government came to power."

"There is no room in the government for bureaucracy or shy or wishy-washy people," he said, after demanding "time and prudence."

The president admitted that the government "has many pending accounts" but noted that "it will not be arrogant" because "the difficulties in implementing a policy cannot invalidate the policy."

Menem said he is aware of the difficulties that the commercial sector is experiencing because he was educated "by parents who pursued that occupation." He stressed: "Both the private and public sectors are responsible for building a prosperous Argentina."

The president said he wished that "democracy would have no subservient people," and noted that the politicians, businessmen, and unionists "who do not understand the change that has been promoted by the government" are "blind."

Menem Discusses Privatization of Businesses

PY0711202190 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1228 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Nov (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has said that his government's economic policy "will not be relaxed" and that "there is no possibility of change." He also said that, although no date has yet been set, he will grant a pardon [not further specified] "before the end of the year."

The chief of state said that the state reform "has begun" in Argentina and that it will not end "until we achieve our objective of privatizing other companies like the SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services], the National Sanitary Works, and the State Gas Corporation."

He also said that those who do not understand the support of President George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Lech Walesa for the state reconstruction model implemented by this government are "totally outdated."

Menem told Radio Splendid that Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo had told him that he feels "very comfortable as a minister, and that the idea of his candidacy as governor of Cordoba Province can be ruled out."

The president said that although he does not know if the reports about the unrealistic exchange rate "will put pressure on the government," he said: "I assume they will. These reports are coming from some economists who are not merely expressing their own point of view but rather those of businessmen who are seeking soft loans. The national government will not give in on this subject."

"The government's economic policy will not retreat, there is no possibility of change, and things will continue as they are now. No petition will receive a positive answer," the president said.

"The exchange rate will continue as it is, the dollar price will be set by the market, and credits will evolve according to the rate of inflation," Menem said.

Menem will visit the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam this morning. In the next few days he will begin a tour to the PRC and Japan. He said that in November and December "the inflation rate may drop," allowing us to begin in 1991 "with the possibility of a civilized inflation rate; if the process does not yield indexes higher than those registered in any normal country." [sentence as received]

The president said that he has always been sure that everything would work out well during his administration "but in December and January I saw some of my

aides were faltering because they did not see things too well. I have never felt uncertainty, although I have had some [word indistinct] and hindrances because those who openly promised to help the country overcome the crisis returned to their old practices; speculation, profiteering, and the maneuvers everyone knows."

Menem said that the privatization of Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] will be settled tomorrow and "before the end of the month we will settle the Aerolineas Argentinas issue."

When asked about those who "do not understand" the support of Bush, Gorbachev, and Walesa for the state reform policy, Menem said: "They are sectors that continue to support the outdated, clumsy, and absurd ideologies that had oppressed hundreds of millions of men and women in other parts of the planet and has destroyed their economies."

"Therefore, those in Argentina who still uphold ideologies that are no longer maintained in other parts of the world are greatly responsible for the destruction of our country," he said.

He added: "Nearly all the provinces" adopted "the same position from the outset as the national government" on the adjustment of their economies. "They are implementing their adjustment and readjustment plans, not for the fun of it, but because there is an imperious need for economic growth in the provinces."

The new governors of Jujuy and Chubut, Eduardo Huascar Alderete and Fernando Cosentino, respectively, "have assumed this responsibility and are aware of the need to reform the policy carried out by my friends and former governors de Aparici and Perl," Menem said.

"They promised to make all the changes necessary so that their provinces may soon overcome the difficult situation in which they are currently living," he said.

The chief of state said: "There has never been so much freedom of the press and opinion in Argentina as there is now," and although "the government has given up some television channels it is logical that it should keep something with which to defend itself when lies are told, reports are distorted, and the news is not objectively disseminated." Menem said this after announcing that ATC [Argentina Televisora Color] and Radio Nacional will not be privatized.

When asked about his relations with former President Raul Alfonsin, Menem said that the UCR [Radical Civic Union] president has started "to attack in an incomprehensible manner. The outrages of my rival many times lead me to answer in a higher tone that I am used to. I am no longer willing to respond to the kind of aggravation I have received lately," the president said.

Regarding a possible detente that could allow the Justicialist Party to reach an agreement with the UCR, the president said: "You know very well that politics is the art of the possible. What may seem impossible now, may be possible tomorrow. This is not just a word game but a reality to which everyone, not only in Argentina but in the whole world, is accustomed."

Bomb Damages Store in Southern Buenos Aires

PY0711142690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1301 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Nov (TELAM)—A medium-intensity bomb exploded early this morning outside an electric appliance store in Lomas de Zamora District in southern Buenos Aires. Sources at the Lomas de Zamora fire station confirmed this morning that the explosion damaged masonry and shattered the windows of the store and adjacent homes but caused no victims.

According to preliminary reports, the explosion occurred shortly after 0130 outside the Tofema Corporation at 9200 Hipolito Yrigoyen Street in Lomas de Zamora. The explosion "tore off" the store's main door, damaged masonry, and shattered windows of the store and adjacent houses.

Fire fighters from the Lomas de Zamora station, which is not far from the scene of the explosion, went to the store immediately. Fire station sources reported that the Lanus bomb squad is investigating the cause of the explosion.

Tofema owner Carlos Anibal Torres "categorically" denied any political or union link with the incident. He told TELAM that the bomb "was left there by chance," adding that "ours is a clean union that promotes fair competition."

Sources at the Lanus regional unit said that it was a "medium-intensity" bomb and that no trace of the explosive device could be found at the scene. Torres expressed his "surprise" over the incident and said that there are "no well-known figures living in the area."

* Corrientes Governor Announces Adjustment Plan

91SM0065B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] The governor of Corrientes, Ricardo Leconte, met with all the ranking officials in his administration to explain to them the adjustment plan that will take place in the province. According to Leconte, the plan "will be formalized in all areas and will have a very severe impact."

He commented that the government is experiencing financial difficulties, like all provinces, because in September it received 25 billion australes less in revenue sharing than in August, and 63 billion australes in revenue sharing funds did not come.

"With these very negative financial problems," he added, "the province was unable to pay civil service wages on time. Teachers were the hardest hit by the delay. In view of this problem, private credit was

resorted to, and critical services such as health, security and justice were maintained."

"Between the end of last year and these recent months," he said, "the national government saw revenue sharing funds drop by more than 370 billion australes, and this amounts to seven months' pay for provincial employees. Considering this fact, and since every change requires a sacrifice, the government will immediately put into effect Law 4303, on early retirement; Law 4339, on transferring personnel to private companies; and Law 4634, regarding civil servnants who are eligible for retirement."

He commented that payroll cuts will be another goal, as will limiting the furloughs that require the government to pay five billion australes. "For this reason, 70 civil servants have already been approved for retirement in summary proceedings, and we will send the unemployment law to the Legislature," he stated.

Government Reform

"We will obey the government reform laws," said Leconte, "and we will derogate the updating of public works. There will be less fuel for officials, and we will suspend bidding and projects that are on the drawing boards."

He emphasized that "government reform will mean the birth of a new province, and we will proceed to privatize casinos, the airport in Corrientes, and the Official Bulletin. In addition, the Bank of the Province should recover the loans extended to production, industry, and commerce, and in terms of taxes, the accounts of delinquent debtors will be regularized."

Leconte announced that teachers will be given priority in the payment of salaries for the month of September, "as they suffered the most under the previous payment plans."

Leconte declared formally that "with the measures already undertaken and the commitment to carry out immediately those already announced, we expect to end the hard times we are enduring. Without a doubt, with the support of all government officials and the understanding of the people, we will come out ahead."

* Institutional Crisis in Chubut Province

91SM0065C Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Oct 90 p 7

[Report by Matilde Flerro]

[Text] An analysis of the situation that has arisen in the province of Chubut cannot ignore the obvious: There is a significant power vacuum at the top of the government.

On 14 May 1989 in Chubut, the Justicialist Popular Unity Front (FREJUPO), the alliance that put President Menem in office, lost the elections. On that occasion there was no doubt in the minds of most analysts. The decline of a leadership that had been characterized by a certain ambiguity with regard to courses of action had begun. The rest was a series of abortive attempts to put back together a puzzle that lacked major pieces. Dr. Nestor Perl, who two years earlier had left his seat in the Lower House of Congress to return as governor of this province, always showed a lack of political control in managing the crisis and channeling essential elements in the right direction.

The previous cabinet (today replaced by an emergency cabinet) was unable to make important decisions in areas such as: health, education, the development of production sectors with port infrastructure, aqueducts, tourism, etc.

Although the media are reporting what could be a strategy that was agreed upon by Chubut officials (who include representatives of the various areas, business, administration, intermediate organizations and even private education), such is not the case.

600 Million

The mass rebellion in Chubut is not over the 600 million australes (an approximate estimate) that the central government owes the province.

The presence of mottoes is a major consequence of the vague attitude that the Perl administration has had toward the central government and toward internal provincial matters.

On 12 September the newspaper JORNADA of Trelew, in a pithy article, posited that "the political suicide that the governor of Chubut appears to have committed in public is an indication that he is out of touch with reality and with the needs of his own people." On that occasion, the future composition of the new cabinet was evaluated as being on the front line "with regard to the program advanced by Dr. Carlos Menem at the national level."

Weeks earlier the bishop of Comodoro Rivadavia, Argimiro Daniel Moure, had issued a harsh document in which he sounded the alarm about the situation in the province and called for a rescue operation. That document was reported in LA PRENSA under the headline, "The People Won't Wait Any Longer."

Chain of Protests

The school year was interrupted more frequently this year. Government employees tried all kinds of strikes and work slowdowns. Hospitals are admitting only extreme emergency cases. Retirees staged a sit-down on the runway at the Trelew airport and blocked the departure of an Argentine Airlines flight. Local residents cut off Route 3, a key link between Patagonia and the rest of the country. The government's situation room was set on fire. Trade unionists assaulted legislators. Thus proceeded the chain reaction of various forms of protest in this Chubut rebellion.

Who is involved? At this juncture the entire populace is mobilized, acting in solidarity. But this outburst of

protest has been heated in a region that has depended on the payment of petroleum royalties and other forms of revenue sharing for a long time. The next step, according to "popular mythology," would be "to shut off the fuel valves (crude oil) to Buenos Aires."

These measures have been contemplated on several occasions, including the previous Radical administration, but there was never enough strength to implement them. Today not only is there despair, but there are also activities by trade unionists or activists. At the center of this, however, is a fervent desire to be heard by the "north," by the center of decision-making in Argentina.

Nevertheless, when analyzing the events that are about to take place, it should be taken into account that Nestor Perl has already managed to evade—by means of negotiations with "his deputies"—several calls for impeachment. The last time 5,000 signatures were collected by parents in Comodoro Rivadavia, in addition to a lesser number in Puerto Madryn, was at a time when the "battle cries of 'guardapolvos y escarapelas' [dust jackets and emblems, referring to public school teachers and students]" were used during previous mobilizations. These battle cries are now relegated to recent history. Today, "action" is the slogan that gets people going.

Intervention

On the eve of the event, several important names were being mentioned to take over the intervention in the province of Chubut, given that this last resort effort came from Mera Figueroa's ministry. The internal elections in the Justicialist Party at the provincial level also weigh heavily when it comes to deciding how to correct this unprecedented anarchy.

There is a problem of authority in Chubut; the limits have been exceeded. Will Nestor Perl survive this latest impasse? The draining of national funds into empty coffers could serve as a palliative. The underlying problem will remain.

* Increasing Signs of Political Unrest Seen

91SM0063B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Oct 90 p 7

[Report by Manuel Acuna]

[Text] When the president of the republic departs this afternoon for Europe, with the first stop in Italy, some of the more combative factions of Peronism, with the open support of the left, will begin a march on the Plaza de Mayo to hold a new celebration of the 17 October anniversary.

It was expected that the dissident "Group of Eight," which is moving closer every day to a split with the Justicialist Party, would be primarily responsible for this demonstration. Such a schism would coincide with the accelerated deterioration of relations between the Buenos Aires government and the central government, which should not be any great surprise, given that for the last few weeks, especially since Antonio Cafiero and Raul Ricardo Alfonsin lost the plebiscite of 5 August, the two have tried desperately to maintain their own and each other's political power.

For this purpose, all indications are that they have compiled an arsenal that consists merely of protests against the government in general and certain political currents and sectors in particular. This has placed them in a rather difficult position, which we will analyze below.

Returning to the Plaza de Mayo, it is symptomatic that on that date, which is dear to the hearts of Peronists, Dr. Carlos Menem is traveling abroad. The "Group of Eight," meanwhile, must have made a gambit and lain down on its side; after the initial efforts to organize the demonstration, Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez, Juan Pablo Cafiero and the other legislators who belong to this group reached the conclusion that their ability to mobilize the people was and is very limited. Indeed, if they persisted in their efforts, they could expect a great big flop.

Ubaldini, Only Speaker

The most interesting thing is that the leadership of the "Eight" expected that the various currents of the left would give them total support, especially after the Communist Party sent certain signals suggesting it was willing to open up, as well as other signals, on the occasion of the preparations for its upcoming 17th Congress. This development will provide much food for thought, and we will analyze it in due time.

To the surprise of the "Eight," they received very meager support, even from the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), Worker Power (PO), and the social democratic factions of the Alfonsin movement. The latter are preoccupied at the moment with an internal struggle that appears to show that no one is in charge of the Radicals, much less former President Alfonsin, who was unable to impose his point of view or his partisan interest at the Mar del Plata Convention.

The Intransigent Party, on the other hand, did decide to act in concert with the "Eight," but in fact it makes no difference, since this party has little or no ability to mobilize, even though this ability might be reinforced by extremist elements, such as the members of Revolutionary Peronism and other activist—not to mention subversive—groups.

Given this state of affairs, in addition to the cracking of heads observed among the Radicals during their encounter by the sea, this also served to confirm that it will be up to the so-called CGT [General Confederation of Labor]-Azopardo to take principal responsibility for the gathering tomorrow afternoon. All indications are that this group got its own way, and thus the only speaker will be Saul Ubaldini. In practice, this has many implications within the Peronist movement.

One of them is that the leader of the beer workers believes the "Eight" are not good company at the leadership level, especially if they manage to form a separate bloc from the Justicialist Party (PJ) and carry out a splinterizing program. The least that one can say about the fate of such a program is that it is uncertain and then some.

Possible Outrages

At any rate, it is possible that today will become a kind of milestone between peace and war, even with Menem out of the country. If we say this so blatantly, it is because at certain levels where these things are known, no one is ruling out the possibility that combative elements—as insurrectionist criminals are now called—may take advantage of the gathering of several thousand people to provoke a situation that could become irreversible. It might be similar to the famous events that took place in the same place when Carlos Saul Menem was a presidential candidate.

It may be recalled that in October 1988 at another CGT event, also led by Ubaldini, he had barely begun his speech when activists hired for the purpose—reportedly by Alfonsin's Coordinating Board—began to commit outrages rarely seen before: They robbed and looted stores and businesses, raided the city hall with impunity, and tried to cast a negative image on those who opposed Alfonsin's interests.

Now yesterday's enemies are today's friends, so no one would be surprised if, even while Ubaldini remained there, lamenting the head-bashing and the aggression, there were agreements favoring the left's agenda in light of the social and economic crisis.

Cafiero Fuels the Flames

Given this situation, while the internal clashes are pitting the Radicals against the Alfoninists in a headlong battle, the governor of Buenos Aires is pouring fuel on the fire by calling for "peaceful" citizen demonstrations to protest the economic problems in the provinces. This would come just when events of this type are threatening the government of Chubut and similar plans are being made in Rio Negro, Salta, Santa Fe, Jujuy, and Catamarca.

On the other hand, the ruling party has just won the elections for the constitutional convention in Formosa, but this comes nowhere near alleviating a situation in which the rarefied atmosphere is becoming increasingly stormy.

For this reason, Antonio Cafiero's attitude merits attention, given that an instigation of this sort by the governor himself during a radio program where he is both host and main speaker, cannot but be related to all these factors. Consequently, we must ask what Cafiero really wants, and how far he is willing to go.

The latter is a question that many have been asking for some time now, aware that the chain of events may result in circumstances that are more than difficult—and perhaps closer than we think. Such a situation would require some very far-reaching decisions and therefore some policy definitions that would get at the very heart of political power.

Does Cafiero want to provoke developments that would bring his own political crisis to a head, so that any means would be justified as a matter of salvation? Are the social democrats preparing to wage a battle in the "Plaza of Fire," as an opposition political weekly has called the Plaza de Mayo? To what extent will the ties that bind Alfonsinism and Cafierism, and that bind all of them to groups of ideological activism and others, be put into effect at this very moment, for a premeditated purpose, where the political positions, the specific interests, the ideas, and the attitudes will come together in a pandemonious confusion?

The MAS, the MTP, and the First Assaults

A few hours ago some suggestive preparations were detected among the ranks of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS). These preparations indicate not only an effort to politically engulf and destroy anyone who criticizes the economic situation, but more specifically an attempt to mobilize—the redundancy is deliberate—the various cells that are controlled by some factory unions in Greater Buenos Aires.

This would not be the only development to be followed with great concern; recall the "crisis exercise" we discussed yesterday. As it was reported all too mildly in the middle of last week, weapons were found right in the heart of the city, being transported in a car for apparently commercial purposes.

Nonetheless, more than 300 revolvers—of small caliber, but no less effective for a destabilizing street action—had been stolen last year without any announcement to that effect, and reappeared almost fortuitously. Moreover, there are signs that they were not going to be fenced but used.

In addition, we must consider the partial restructuring of the All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP) and the consequent acceleration of the Liberation Theology campaign. This effort is even using top-grade radio equipment, which clearly implies a capacity for action about which little or nothing is being done. As if this were not enough ("Confidential Press" has reported on it in great detail), on 20 September a group of police officers was preparing to question the drivers of a "La Serenisima" truck that had been reported stolen, but as soon as the officers approached they were greeted with gunfire from machine guns and other weapons in a support operation by another cell that was going by in a car.

The upshot was one officer wounded in the head and abdomen, now in a terminal coma, and another officer with an amputated arm. Furthermore, judging by the

manner in which the assailants operated and were able to get away, it is clear that they are not common criminals.

Patti Still in Jail

To conclude for today, we will say that this brief description of the developments would be incomplete if we did not say a couple of words about Assistant Commissioner of Police Patti, who was expected to be paroled yesterday afternoon.

The case of this official, who was arrested and prosecuted for fighting common crime, surpassed all limits and forced its way into the crisis and the decadence as a total manifestation of these factors. Since the country still has reserves, there was a wave of protest whose repercussions are still unpredictable and which is expressly trying to remain apolitical.

This is repeated daily by those in charge of coordinating the various protests, who will not stop until they have won his freedom and things are back to normal, a difficult task in the Argentina of recent times. These were the demands of a major police demonstration held yesterday afternoon in front of the Barrancas police station, where he is being held. This happened after he received a visit from the previous and current staffs of the police force of Buenos Aires Province.

To be sure, these events are very eloquent, above all when we consider that on the other hand, the controversial Judge Borrino who is behind the prosecution of Patti is linked to organizations that supposedly defend "human rights" and have close ties to political representatives of a certain current, like Juan Pablo Cafiero, for example.

* Provincial, Labor Leaders' Front Against Menem

91SM0063A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by Daniel Lupa]

[Text] By mid-December the Menem administration will come under the combined pressure of provincial and labor leaders who represent the movement known, ironically, as "renovation orthodoxy." The effect will be to add to the advocates of renovation who have been excluded, or put off in the Menem administration those who identify renovation with leftist nationalism.

The convergence of governors and the Azopardist faction of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) is no coincidence, but neither is it the result of a willful conspiracy devised behind the back of reality. It has reportedly been planned as a likely alternative since the middle of the year, but without great expectations of success. The idea circulated widely once the last illusions of CGT "unification" finally died, and when some attempts to reconcile the Peronist governors with Menem highlighted the great rifts generated by the conflict between federal revenue sharing and efforts to reduce the size of the government.

But there is no doubt that the most active "laboratory" aspect of an idea like this—which at the time was going through the minds of very few Peronists—accelerated when Cafiero was forced to step down as president of the Peronist National Council following the defeat of the proposal to reform the Buenos Aires Constitution. If Menem tried to negotiate internal party power at that time with the governors, he must have realized how difficult it was to bring together provincial support without high costs, such as the irritants of revenue sharing. From that time on, it all boiled down to putting off a crisis that in essence merely served to combine the resistance with the cuts in provincial public spending.

Trade Union Plan

In the same manner, the Azopardist faction of the CGT,—under pressure from the dominant left in the state apparatus, both in the Association of State Workers (ATE) and in the Confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic (CTERA), had been experiencing some major conflicts.

To begin with, they had planned a succession of resounding strikes that would reach the very doorway of President Bush's aircraft when he arrived in Argentina on his visit scheduled for 16 or 17 September. The unexpected postponement of his trip caught them "red-handed," unable to defuse the bomb. In the end, the strikes merely caused a few annoying changes in transit in Buenos Aires and a little noise in the Plaza de Mayo. They failed to move the country, beyond the agitation staged for a few sensationalist TV broadcasts.

The attempt to extend the agitation until 8 October, when the ownership of the privatized phone companies was to be transferred, also failed. But there were plans to reschedule the "protest" for early December; the new date of Bush's trip provided a clear leftist political motivation that the core leadership could relate to.

And at that point, warnings that had already reached the labor organization ATE-CTERA took on more substance with the more determined participation of the Azopardist faction of the CGT, this time with the endorsement of the Metalworkers Union (UOM) and Lorenzo Miguel. The latter was having increasing difficulty in negotiating a national pact, and was unable to recover the union's already forfeited wage leadership, which explains the UOM's decision to join the effort. As a result, the dates and the plans were changed.

If the original plan called for the most critical part of the movement to take place in the first week of December (with the "occupation of primary schools" that were already empty because of summer vacation), coinciding with Bush's visit, the Azopardist faction of the CGT pointed out that the telephone issue would be more nettlesome and would provide a better excuse. Therefore, the "occupation of (empty) primary schools" was changed to the "bike-athon." (That idea had met with resistance because it would point to the fact that every teacher had more than a half-million australes, on

average, to spend on a bicycle. It was accepted, however, with a romantic "revolutionary" excuse, because "in Peking, after all, the principal means of transportation is the bicycle," according to a young teacher who claimed to have seen it "personally in Communist China.")

The Ubaldini plan—attributed to his new "strategic advisers," who presumably came from the nationalist left faction of Peronism—would have inserted a new stage in the schedule leading up to the first week of December, using as an excuse the new date for the privatization of the phone companies: a work stoppage beginning on 8 November (only likely until now) and culminating on 5 or 6 December, with corresponding "rallies in the Plaza de Mayo or La Matanza, whichever." This would be the general program.

Agreement at Halfway Point

It was at this point, thanks to intensive efforts with CGT chapters in the interior—where Ubaldini still maintains a relative presence—that agreements and commitments were hammered out so that the events staged in the various provinces would coincide, at least in time and form, with the Azopardist agitation set for three weeks hence.

The agreement involves difficulties with regard to the duration of the protests. But it has an important longevity factor derived from the provincial policies: The governors themselves appeared to be anxious for the agreement that was negotiated—and perhaps concluded?—to have a long term, giving them time to exert sufficient pressure to win some breathing room and fend off the government's house-cleaning and cost-cutting measures.

This is not limited to the Peronist governors; in the case of Rio Negro, or in that of Corrientes (just to name two examples). Since December 1983 the number of public employees has skyrocketed. The "gnocchis" [civil servants who show up only on the last day of the month to collect their paychecks] dominate the scene, and wasteful spending, tolerated thanks to the practically exhausted provincial banks, has been the basic common denominator. Relying on social protest and the Azopardist labor pressure to back them up, the governors' bargaining position is that "everything should remain the way it is."

Cafiero Offers His Services

Nevertheless, the convergence seems disorderly, lacking a face or a name that could define it and centralize the negotiation. Obviously, the governor of Tucuman could engage in one set of negotiations, while the governors of Chubut, Santa Fe, or Catamarca could negotiate quite different things, all of them very different from what Ubaldini or De Gennaro might negotiate.

This means, in principle, that the unification should settle on a single Peronist internal position to achieve unanimous opinions and negotiate as broad a package as possible with Menem.

This explains the sudden emergence last Monday of Cafiero, who had been so silent and meek since 5 August, to trumpet himself as the key player in the protest. He told some grumbling "farmers" and later made a public announcement that he himself would personify the protest, in an obvious repetition of Perl's plan of action. He, however, omitted—at least for the time being—the latter's [pasatista] resurrection of the "charges against the oligarchy (sic)." This suggested his willingness to lead the other governors and the convergent Azopardist reaction.

It seems no mere coincidence that at the same time as the governor, Lorenzo Miguel, announced his support for the movements begun by the Azopardists; it was well known that Cafiero and Miguel had always had close ties.

Limited Intentions

Cafiero's move marked an effort to make up for lost ground after the defeat of the [calfonfierismo] in August. It does not, however, appear to have amounted to more than a feeler, given his rapid public retraction as soon as Menem took up the challenge sharply and vigorously.

A similar thing seems to have happened to Perl, whose private explanations during the meeting in Olivos reportedly headed off a detailed and formal public denunciation by the president regarding the delayed government reform in Chubut.

Although the reactions—and presidential power, when he uses it—give Menem plenty of room to maneuver politically and enable him to partially dismantle some of the plans that are afoot, the situation will not calm things down until the end of the year (mid-December is the deadline the participants have given themselves).

It is also significant, however, that there appear to be no plans for any time beyond that (there are apparently no other plans besides what is already known), as if the time between now and mid-December were the "trial by fire or deep crisis period," in the words of one presidential aide during an informal discussion Tuesday afternoon, a kind of final attempt at reacting before the consolidation of Menem's power.

* Duhalde Meets With Two Provincial Governors

91SM0065A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Governor Cesar Iturre of Santiago del Estero and Governor Pedro Salvatori of Neuquen told the vice president of the nation yesterday of their concern about the financial difficulties their districts are having as a result of the reduction of federal revenue sharing. They emphasized their support for the national government's efforts, which they are seconding by controlling spending at the provincial level as well.

At the end of the meeting, Governor Iturre told the press that in Santiago del Estero "there is social tranquillity and there are no situations such as those that have been reported in other states." He did point out, however, that

he had told Dr. Duhalde of "my concern about the difficulties—financial ones—that the province is having, especially since last month, when for the first time in my term we were unable to pay salaries on time."

"There has been a sharp reduction in revenue sharing," Iturre continued, "to the extent that in July they fell by nearly 50 percent. This creates problems for us, even though we are considered a well-run province, but we have to admit that there are not enough funds," explained the governor of Santiago del Estero.

Iturre added that "we have done our duty and kept our affairs in order, but to pay public employees and to keep public services at a minimum level of quality, I told Duhalde and Minister Mera Figueroa that we need to ask for some type of support from the national government."

Governor Iturre concluded by saying that the vice president agreed to "evaluate appropriately" the request, and that "a system of rewards and punishments should be implemented, according to how well we have carried out our duties."

Pedro Salvatori

The governor of Neuquen stated that the main problem facing his province is the lag between oil and gas royalties and the international prices of these fuels.

He termed the disparity in these amounts "a tremendous injustice" that could cause "a very serious disturbance in Neuquen." In this regard, he explained that the royalty payments are made on the basis of a price of $14 per barrel of petroleum, when internationally the price is $21 to $25," commented Salvatori.

As far as gas is concerned, the governor of Neuquen opposed the current payment on the basis of $1 per unit of measure, when internationally the same quantity costs $3.

Salvatori emphasized the problems that affect his province, although he made a point of saying that "we have accompanied the national government in carrying out the adjustment."

After speaking on this subject, the governor declared that social "tranquillity" prevails in Neuquen, although he warned that the events that have taken place in other states as a result of the shortage of funding cannot be ruled out in his district if the problems grow worse.

Iturre and Salvatori spoke about these matters with the current vice president of the executive branch and the minister of the interior, Julio Mera Figueroa, yesterday morning at the Government Palace.

* Foreign Policy Toward Gulf Questioned

91SM0036B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
23 Sep 90 p 9

[Report by Sergio Crivelli]

[Text] In Renaissance engravings opportunity is often depicted as a bald woman with a tuft of hair in the front. The meaning is clear: opportunities must be seized head on, when they are coming towards us. Once they have passed, they can no longer be grasped.

The image is useful as a reference in addressing the issue that has monopolized the attention of society and the political leadership in recent days: the sending of Argentine troops to the Persian Gulf to cooperate with the United States in the blockade of Iraq. Even after the debate was over, many unanswered questions remained. The first is whether Argentina still has time to join the group of developed countries after the isolationist diplomatic strategy that governments of the most diverse stripe have pursued this century. Doubts also remained as to whether the Menem administration's decision would effectively enhance our country's international credibility. In less than a decade we have moved from being the target of a Western "task force" in the South Atlantic to joining the NATO fleet in the Middle East.

One of the examples in history that defenders of sending troops to the gulf cited goes even further back in time, to the 1940's. At that time Argentina refused to collaborate with the United States and England in the battle against Hitler. In spite of the strong economic interests that bound us to London, local conservatives' sympathy for the Axis prevailed, sympathy that Peronism later inherited. Experience showed that this decision was wrong. Exile from the West brought severe comparative backwardness. The corporativist model applied by Juan Peron and the utopia of the "third position" ended in disastrous failure.

Another question inevitably arises here: Will sending two warships to a place 10,000 miles away help by itself to put us back in the First World after global economic relations have undergone such sweeping changes over the past 50 years and after the role of raw-materials producing countries like ours has faded so completely?

These doubts can be dispelled only by placing the controversy in a realistic light, that is to say, by clearly distinguishing between the reasons that the administration cited for making its decision, the real reasons why it did so, and the advantages that Argentina's military commitment to Washington will presumably yield.

First, the argument that we are thereby joining the First World is difficult to accept, because this is obviously not an incorporation but merely an alignment behind the objectives of the United States. President Bush's warm congratulations to Menem and Ambassador Todman's approval require no further comment. Evidence of linkage between the debt problem and the turnabout in Argentine diplomatic strategy was not lacking either. In this regard we should not forget that Erman Gonzalez was about to travel to Washington when the Foreign Ministry agreed to put local military personnel in the task force.

Domestic Reaction

The most candid ruling-party circles are saying today that the economic restraints on the Menem administration make it very sensitive to pressure, and they admit that the administration is seeking to offset its growing domestic isolation with the support that it is finding in the embassy on Colombia Street. Hence, decision-making mechanisms are involving fewer and fewer participants. The short-circuit between the Executive Branch and both the ruling party and the opposition makes it clear that the decision to send Argentine soldiers to the gulf was made after a debate in which at most three or four members of the palace inner circle took part. Under these circumstances, the major shock that the decision caused in Congress should be no surprise.

Thus, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and Defense Minister Humberto Romero had to undergo harsh questioning by none other than the Peronist bloc in the upper house. In light of the criticism from legislators who theoretically ought to have supported the administration, it seemed inevitable that they would firmly refuse to appear before the Chamber of Deputies, where the forces are more balanced and a slip-up could have been disastrous to the Menem administration.

The administration thus sought to extricate itself from this awkward situation in whatever way it could, not realizing that a 180-degree shift in foreign policy required at least a debate in which the most representative political forces would take part. All of the assurances that Cesar Jaroslavsky gave Foreign Minister Cavallo over the phone to the effect that the Radicals would not attack him viciously were in vain. The minister seemed to be much more afraid of his own party's dissidents than of the opposition, and he refused to discuss publicly an issue that affects the interest of the nation, not of a party or an administration.

One often hears in official circles that one of the current administration's overriding goals is to create an atmosphere of trust that will bring back the sort of investment that will set in motion the promised production revolution. An unambiguous alignment with Washington seems to be the panacea for this problem, in the view of many Menem followers, but the lack of debate on the issue is actually having the opposite effect. Deciding foreign policy by decree and against the current of Congress will not guarantee its continuity and, moreover, conveys a clear impression that there is a lack of consensus among party leaders.

Another far from auspicious example of this lack of consensus was provided by the decree extending the economic-emergency law, whose enactment was overshadowed by the controversy over sending troops to the gulf. This was, however, an issue of far-reaching importance, for several reasons. First, because the fact that the Executive Branch continues to exercise discretionary power over the property and rights of citizens reveals that the president is practicing a "sui generis" form of capitalism, which he praises in public. Second, because the ongoing emergency obliges us to ask why the economic authorities failed to comply with the deadlines provided for in the law that Congress passed. Last, the decree has created a future legal quagmire, inasmuch as lawsuits filed by the affected parties will be a Sword of Damocles hanging over future administrations.

To this we must add that the coast does not look clear for Minister Gonzalez towards the end of the year. Regardless of whatever financial boost may be forthcoming from overseas, specialists feel that the exchange-rate lag and the recession will create an explosive political scenario for the Ministry of Economy around late November-early December. The float put into practice by Javier Gonzalez Fraga leveled the dollar out in a bid to cut inflation to single digits. However, interest groups hurt by this move (exporters, industrialists, grain growers, unions) will no doubt form a spontaneous coalition that will exert heavy pressure on the Ministry of Economy in the months to come.

To stem this onslaught, Erman Gonzalez met last Wednesday with the business group of the eight in a bid to form an alliance that would represent the opposite number of the defunct Convivencia group. The initial results of the rapprochement were positive for the minister, but as with sending Argentine ships to the gulf, no one can give assurances as to what the ultimate outcome will be.

* New Shift in Monetary Policy Viewed

91SM0031B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] There was a sharp change in the direction of monetary policy in August, as the expansion of the monetary base declined in real terms by 10.1 percent. This is in sharp contrast to the situation since April and through July, during which time the expansion of the monetary base was up 80 percent in real terms.

The Association of Argentine Banks (ADEBA) indicates in its report that the expansionary monetary policy that was pursued in the four month period in question was the result of attaching priority to a defense of the exchange rate rather than to achieving a major decline in the inflation rate. This expansion of the base substantiated the price hikes that were occurring in the economy as a result of the jockeying for position that all sectors, government included, are systematically attempting so as not to lose ground in the structure of relative prices.

This combination of an expansionary monetary policy and systematic price hikes for the aforementioned reason, creates the danger that if for various reasons credibility suffers, the pace of inflation will quicken. Therefore, the authorities once again adopted the priority goal that they had set for themselves at the start of the year, in other words, reducing the inflation rate through a contractive monetary policy.

This explains the aforementioned drastic change in the rate of expansion of the monetary base.

These measures were complemented with others designed to intensify the fiscal adjustment that had been ordered months back in Decree No 435.

These tight-money conditions did not lead in August, as one might have suspected, to an increase in the real interest rate on deposits, inasmuch as it was strongly negative. This development, which may seem paradoxical, can be explained by the decline in the demand for credit that took place that month according to available information. This highlights how afraid business is to borrow when declining economic activity is on the horizon owing to the aforementioned change in monetary policy.

Volumes of Deposits

Total deposits also declined considerably in real terms, although once again there was a rise in time deposits, in contrast to deposits in checking accounts and savings banks. The overall decline is closely tied to negative real rates and expectations of higher inflation, which in turn caused the sharp drop in checking-account deposits to avoid paying the inflation tax.

These same expectations also caused the monetization of the economy, as measured by M1 (currency plus checking-account deposits), to decline for the first time since April, and since this time there has been a constant expansion of this monetary aggregate.

As we can see, renewed concern about inflation colored all monetary and banking developments in August but also influenced the foreign-exchange market, inasmuch as in conjunction with negative interest rates it slowed the pace at which the real exchange rate has been deteriorating since April.

The measures, consistent with the new austerity policy that is in effect, first caused a sharp rise in interest rates and a concomitant fall in the real exchange rate. This prompted the monetary authorities to intervene in the foreign-exchange market to prevent further deterioration of the exchange rate. The question may thus arise as to whether the objectives of lower inflation and preventing a further decline in the real exchange rate will again clash.

Monthly Increase in Deposits (percent)

Period	Total(1)	Checking Accounts	Savings Banks	Time Deposits
1989				
January	16.1	9.6	16.8	17.2
February	9.2	9.8	7.0	9.4
March	12.8	9.4	6.9	13.3
April	23.0	19.2	10.9	23.3
May	39.3	61.6	17.6	35.5
June	116.9	150.0	64.6	98.6
July	107.5	88.3	108.9	111.0
August	52.1	43.6	63.2	55.5
September	22.6	32.5	52.6	25.3
October	19.7	38.5	29.2	17.4
November	8.8	28.9	11.7	4.3
December	3.3	38.8	9.8	3.4
1990				
January	-23.6	87.6	341.5	—
February	19.6	-5.3	45.7	—
March	42.3	48.9	29.6	3,769.5
April	53.8	36.2	46.6	824.3
May	33.2	26.0	33.4	60.5
June	15.4	14.4	8.4	33.4
July	12.5	3.7	10.8	42.7
August	9.2	-7.2	10.4	28.2

(1) Also includes 100 percent bound deposits, adjustable deposits, and other deposits and obligations through financial middlemen.

* Possible Realignments for 1991 Elections Seen

91SM0036A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Sep 90 p 9

[Report by Manuel Acuna]

[Text] Yesterday we outlined a brand new situation arising from the steps that President Menem has taken to consolidate his political base and improve his chances in next year's elections as much as possible. These elections are a prelude to the balloting the following year. What is at stake is control of the Senate, which is fundamental to maintaining, expanding, or even simply putting into practice a presidential policy that, besides the ones we are familiar with, promises a series of innovations touching on the essence of the Menem agenda.

Today, with the voting still quite far off, the Casa Rosada knows that the trend in party politics gives the ruling party no reason to be confident of its showing. It also knows that in order to do acceptably well, it will have to hammer out a series of alliances, understandings, and accords that will involve more than just placing nonparty candidates on its slates, as has already been commented on. Such alliances will also depend on basic philosophical common ground that is quite far removed, to be sure, from the proposals that the left or simply the center-left is drafting.

We can thus state that there is a growing possibility that some people will break with the Justicialist Party (PJ) and, presumably, swell the ranks of a new electoral front made up of factions that until now belonged to Justicialism or Frejupo [Justicialist Popular Unity Front]. Hence, in the future two major political lines sustaining a sort of two-front battle may arise, in the midst of which smaller groups without much of a chance would maneuver, at least for the time being and with the exception of the neighborhood movement, as these are limited to the municipal level.

The Opposing Front

The potential front opposing Menem would go all out in late 1991 and not conceal its well-defined leftist makeup, consisting of dissidents from Peronism, Christian Democracy, the Intransigent Party, smaller groups that arose alongside communism, and several factions under whose wing, as it were, a number of extremist elements operate.

For the time being this is nothing more than a hypothesis. The fact is, however, that we are commenting on the current trend. We should add that Peronism's potential leaders could be the members of the "group of eight," who besides possessing the symbolic importance of leaving the PJ, would offer a legislative representation that would indeed be significant.

In this regard, the ranks of the Menem faction have been rumoring for some time that they are watching closely how the leaders of this dissident faction are behaving, in a bid to justify their expulsion. The interested parties could render such a move unnecessary by making a quick and much publicized exit.

In this connection, their main spokesman, Carlos "Chacho" Alvarez, a representative of the troubled Peronist Party in the metropolitan area, has just admitted the possibility that a "popular" front could be formed in the future; its main components would be the ones that we mentioned above.

The UCR [Radical Civic Union] Question Mark

The major remaining question mark in this developing panorama, however, is the course that the Radicals will ultimately take. The internal factions that oppose Social Democratic predominance are already quickly forming; in practice, they converge around the person of the Cordoba governor.

The proper question to ask ourselves, then, is whether the Radical Party's major internal differences will intensify (they would have already led to a clear-cut split in another party) or whether it will disguise them, not without effort, in order to keep up a false image of nonexistent cohesiveness.

In the view of some, the most radicalized elements (not a reference to the party but to the left plain and simple) could, in spite of the finest traditions to the contrary, establish a tactical alliance within the opposing front that we have outlined. To others, this would happen only if the factions that would ultimately back Angeloz grow stronger. Lastly, there are also those who feel that the old party will suffer such a severe shakeup, in response to the decadence and ruin in which Alfonsin left it, that the outcome of this process is unpredictable.

Menem Wants To Leave Bitterness Behind

This touchy state of affairs, which comes on top of previous ones, would be incomplete if we failed to emphasize (concerning the administration) that the president's strategy includes an obvious effort to take internal negotiations as far as they will go. Menem himself, in fact, has just done so, as he imposed an accord between the two main factions into which his group of closest advisors is divided: the "sky blues" [a more moderate faction] and the "bright reds" [Menem supporters from the beginning].

The reports coming from the very core of the ruling party indicate that Justicialism's future campaign command will bring together figures as unlikely as the controversial Eduardo Bauza and Jose Luis Manzano, on the one hand, and Julio Cesar Araoz and Luis Barrionuevo, on the other. The Casa Rosada has thus wanted to make it clear that feuds within the inner circle must be put aside once and for all, perhaps because a real political emergency is what they will be up against.

In addition, by taking these steps Menem wanted to reaffirm (in private he did so quite angrily) that in the future he will not permit internal dissent. In practice this could be interpreted as his insisting on his authority within the party and the administration in an effort to prevent damaging rifts.

Storani and the Military

At this point the political scene once again began to unfold amid rumors of trouble in the military, especially in connection with the crisis inside the army, a solution to which is still not in sight.

So much is this the case that once again there is talk of deliberative status, heightened by certain developments like, for example, the charges of corruption, embezzlement, and negligence that medical chiefs and officers who serve or served at the military hospital in Parana, Entre Rios leveled not long ago.

A preliminary investigation was conducted there, and to the surprise of all it culminated with the mere retirement of the hospital administrator, but also with sanctions and leaves of absence for the people who followed regulations and reported the irregularities.

Another incident worthy of mention had to do with the leaflets that greeted Chief of Staff General Bonnet when he visited the specifically military unit serving there which advised him to call off his trip.

What we have commented on here is but an almost minor segment of a much more troubled panorama, one that, moreover, offers unexpected sights.

For example, news from certain garrisons indicates that several officers, to their understandable astonishment, have received a document bearing the signature of National Deputy Federico Storani, a leader of the most progressive leftist wing of the Alfonsin faction.

The brief work is entitled "Conflict Scenario," something that the previous administration systematically denied.

Bolivia

Government Communique Reiterates Decision on Gulf

PY0811003490 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry, through the Diplomatic Information Directorate, has announced that Bolivia has reiterated its decision to support the UN resolutions on the conflict in the Persian Gulf.

In referring to Iraqi Ambassador Qays Tawfiq al-Mukhtar's visit to Bolivia, the Foreign Ministry disclosed that the ambassador had come to explain Iraq's position on the conflict.

According to the communique, the acting foreign minister [Jorge Soruco] explained to the Iraqi ambassador that the UN Security Council resolutions on the conflict have the strong support of the council of nations, including Bolivia.

Resolution Against Chilean Arms Race Approved

PY0711174890 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Jorge Escobari, chairman of the International Affairs Committee, has reported that the Senate has passed a resolution denouncing the Chilean arms race, which threatens peace with Bolivia, and advocating the replacement of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty.

[Begin Escobari recording] Two bombing tests conducted by Chile on the Iquique-Oruro highway—on the stretch between Pichigue and Iquique—have alarmed the entire continent. When the former Peruvian president [Alan Garcia] visited our country, he expressed his country's concern about those explosions.

In view of these facts, I presented a resolution on the topic to the Senate yesterday and it was approved unanimously. We have decided to denounce this tremendous abuse by the Chilean Government at the OAS Assembly, because it endangers the balance of our continental security. [end recording]

Brazil

Collor Delivers 'Ultimatum' to Economic Team

PY0711182690 Madrid EFE in English 1751 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Report by Vittorio Bacchetta]

[Excerpt] Brasilia, Nov 7 (EFE)—Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello has delivered an ultimatum to his economic team to get monthly inflation down to single figures or lose their jobs.

In a meeting Wednesday night [as received] with Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello and other advisers, Collor also said that the country's economic plans would have to change if the single-figure goal was not met.

On the advice of his team, Collor told the country in March that monthly inflation would be less than seven percent from September.

But after the inflation forecast for October reached the second highest monthly level since he took office, the president has had to accept that Brazil's inflation rate could now reach 20 percent by the end of the year before it begins to fall.

Collor took office in March with the promise that he would kill hyperinflation at a stroke, but despite a radical and wide-ranging economic reform program—the Collor Plan—inflation forecast for October is 15.5 percent.

"There is not the least chance of getting inflation under two figures before the end of the year," said economist

Juarez Rizziere, director of the Economic Investigation Foundation Institute which provides the government with its official statistics.

Rizziere blamed the inflation failure on the impact of oil price hikes resulting from the Gulf crisis and price rises on medical products and cereals.

The inflation figures have brought into question the Collor Plan's credibility with the average Brazilian.

But the most vocal criticism comes from the business community which is responding badly to demands that it change long-standing commercial practices in what has traditionally been one of the world's most highly-protected economies.

As the government's credit squeeze takes effect, officials have found themselves caught in an unseemly slanging match with the nation's disgruntled businessmen.

When Mario Amato, president of the Sao Paulo Industries Frederation, described the Collor Plan as "an amush on businessmen", the presidential press officer responded by calling Amato "the spokesman of savage capitalism".

"The spokesman of savage capitalism understands ambushes very well, because this type of reaction is appropriate from a sector which sets its own ambushes, then pushes up prices against the interests of society, believing that, as in other times, the government is going to give in," presidential spokesman Claudio Rosa e Silva said. [passage omitted]

Uranium Deal Called 'Clean,' 'Sound,' 'Legal'

PY0811152190 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Nov 90 p A 15

[Report by "E.S.," from the Brasilia bureau]

[Text] Aramar Experimental Complex Director Othon Luiz Pinheiro da Silva, 51, has said that the importation of enriched uranium was a "sound" and "clean" deal, but he denied knowing where the material came from. Pinheiro held a news conference after giving his testimony before the CPI [Congressional Investigative Commission]. The admiral said that he did not know if Brazil had the technological know-how to build an atomic bomb. Pinheiro said that the Constitution forbids the use of atomic energy other than for peaceful purposes and that this principle should be respected.

FOLHA: Can Brazil build a bomb?

Pinheiro: I do not know. I am not a bomb maker. I only know that we have the know-how to enrich uranium. I have never studied the problem of the bomb, but it must be something very complex. It is like making a cake. You need eggs, baking power, and other things. I do not know if we can build a bomb. We control one of the elements—perhaps the most important—because we can enrich uranium. It is important to note, however, that the Constitution defines our national objectives quite clearly, and we have to respect the Constitution.

FOLHA: Can you confirm that Brazil imported uranium from the PRC at the beginning of the 1980's?

Pinheiro: I cannot confirm anything. You will have to ask the CNEN (National Commission for Nuclear Energy). I received the material from the CNEN. The Commission did not want research in the country to stop. I am sure the CNEN explored all possibilities for importing the material. The source is not my business.

FOLHA: How much uranium did you receive?

Pinheiro: At the time we were building that reactor [not further identified] we did not have the money to expand the centrifugal system. We received 220 kg for use in our research reactor. We were still developing the appropriate technology at that time. It was a small amount, and there was no reason for any uproar over it. Some people said that the deal was clandestine, but everything was clean and legal. The CNEN purchased the material that we needed in a clean and sound deal. It was a research tool for students.

FOLHA: What is the power of that reactor?

Pinheiro: Practically zero. It is only used for research purposes.

FOLHA: And the reactor that is still under construction?

Pinheiro: It is an 11-megawatt reactor, and it is also used for research.

Nuclear Decontamination Techniques Being Developed

PY0711222590 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Nov 90 p 14

[Report by Fanny Zygband]

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo—There could soon be a way to decontaminate water used in large centers like Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, which are facing ever-increasing water supply difficulties. This technology would make it possible to recycle water for human consumption. Pioneer studies on nuclear decontamination techniques are being conducted in Brazil by scientists of the Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research (Ipen) and the USP [Sao Paulo University] Polytechnic School Hydraulic and Sanitary Engineering Department.

Nuclear technology, like that being used in Japan, the United States of America, and Germany—countries that have installed pilot plants—is also being considered as a promising alternative for treating the industrial effluent and polluting sludge produced by conventional chemical and physical treatment processes. In Geiselbullach, Germany, scientists have a pilot plant that serves 240,000 people. Two similar projects have also been installed in Boston and Florida in the United States.

In the Brazilian study, the decontamination is being conducted through the irradiation of water using a high-energy electron accelerator—which is used in industry, for example, to sterilize pharmaceutical products and change the texture of dyes. In Brazil, there are currently four electron accelerators of this type: one in the Ipen and three in different companies. [passage omitted]

According to Civil Engineer Dione Mari Morita, the project coordinator at the USP, the principal advantage of this method is that the substances that do not naturally degrade are completely destroyed, whereas other methods just remove the substances from the water and release them into the air or the soil. As soon as the technical studies are completed, the Ipen and the USP will initiate an economic feasibility study.

Collor, Ecuadoran President Sign Declaration

PY0811013690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Today President Fernando Collor and his Ecuadoran counterpart, Rodrigo Borja, signed a joint declaration in which they expressed their concern about the threat the foreign debt poses to democratic consolidation and development in Latin American countries. The two presidents expressed the need for creditors and debtors alike to look for innovative formulas that will not undermine indebted countries' potential for economic growth.

Collor and Borja signed agreements to promote nuclear cooperation and fight drug trafficking and abuse, and a technical cooperation agreement in areas yet to be determined.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Collor again advocated Latin American integration. He said that only by uniting productive forces and exchanging experiences will the two countries be able to tread the path of progress and social justice.

Among the agreements signed, Collor mentioned the one on nuclear cooperation:

[Begin Collor recording] We also attended the signing of a Brazilian- Ecuadoran agreement on nuclear cooperation, a document that reflects our desire to gain benefits from this area of human knowledge without undermining, in any way, collective peace and security.

As I said recently at the opening of the 45th UN General Assembly session, Brazil rules out the possibility of promoting any type of nuclear explosion, even for peaceful purposes. [end recording]

This position, Collor said, does not mean relinquishing the right to have access to advanced technology, which he regards as essential for the development of countries like Ecuador and Brazil.

President Borja was honored today at the Brazilian Congress. He was received by the presidents of the two houses, Senator Nelson Carneiro and Deputy Paes de Andrade, and was greeted with a 21-gun salute.

Speaking at the plenary session of the Chamber of Deputies, Borja discussed freedom and democracy. He said his government seeks to avoid power abuse by establishing a system of checks and balances among the branches of government. He also advocated Latin American integration.

Collor Launches Quality, Productivity Program

PY0811022490 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Today the Brazilian Government launched the National Quality and Productivity Program, which consists of a package of measures designed to modernize Brazilian industry to make it more competitive. These measures are part of the industrial and foreign trade policy, informatics policy, and the program to promote technological training.

President Fernando Collor de Mello said this program will play a decisive role in reorganizing Brazilian industry and making it more competitive. [passage omitted]

Collor said this program will be implemented primarily by the private sector.

[Begin Collor recording] The private sector will be primarily charged with implementing this program by using its entrepreneurial experience and supplying the bulk of the required financial resources. This program reflects an innovative approach that is consistent with the new role assigned to the government because it is the responsibility of the economic agents themselves to lead the process of reorganizing Brazilian industry to make it more competitive.

The government will just play the role of mobilizing and coordinating these resources. [end recording]

The strategy to be implemented under this program will be formulated by a national committee installed today by President Collor. The committee will be chaired by Marcos Coimbra, secretary general of the Presidency. [passage omitted]

Details of Program Reported

PY0811023290 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Brazil has declared war on waste. The National Quality and Productivity Program, which was launched today in Brasilia, seeks to save the $40 billion that is currently being wasted by Brazilian companies.

Brazilian industries specialize in waste. Out of every million parts manufactured by Brazilian factories, nearly

26,000 are defective. A U.S. company produces no more than 200 defective parts per 1 million. [passage omitted]

A committee consisting of government representatives and businessmen will implement 90 programs to promote industrial quality and efficiency. These programs can be summed up as follows: Campaigns to mobilize companies, workers, and consumers; new methods of production and technology; training of specialized personnel in quality control; and government patronage of companies observing quality standards. [passage omitted]

Fuel Prices, Transportation Fares To Increase

PY0811002690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Report by Cristina Indio do Brasil]

[Excerpt] At midnight on 7 November, the price of gasoline and fuel alcohol will increase by 27.6 percent; diesel oil, cooking gas, and kerosene prices will increase by 28.6 percent; and naphtha by 35 percent.

Electricity rates will increase by 23 percent. Fares for city trains will increase from 11 to 15 cruzeiros, and interstate and international bus fares will increase by 27 percent. [passage omitted]

* Indecision on Informatics Reserve Lamented

91SM0066E Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Oct 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Everything Has Been Postponed Once Again"]

[Text] The final decision on the market reserve in the informatics sector has been postponed once again. The National Council for Informatics and Automation (CONIN), meeting in Brasilia, wound up approving a generous list of products that will continue under protection for at least 60 additional days. These products represent approximately 80 percent of total sales in the sector. In other words, the reserve will actually continue as before to protect even computers of eight bits. Some slow progress has, however, been made along the road that the technical experts of the Ministry of Economy are attempting to follow in order to reach the ultimate goal—set by the president of the Republic—of ending protection havens and market reserves in Brazil.

It was decided at the meeting that all industries that remain protected must submit—within two months—a program of investments, technological adaptation, and increased productivity, and must demonstrate that within two years they will be producing at prices that are competitive with the corresponding imported products. Because the list that continues the reserve on 80 percent of total sales and opens up only 20 percent to imports is scheduled to go into effect in January of next year, it can be assumed that many products which are today protected will drop off the list before it goes into effect if the required progress has not been demonstrated.

One may ask whether the solution to a problem that has already dragged on for almost nine months is not being put off once more. Would it not have been better if CONIN itself had decided on a protection list that was less comprehensive and therefore less generous? The government, after all, enjoys a majority on the council and could—if its representatives were united—take such a decision. One gets the impression that the strategy adopted by those cabinet ministries that are most in tune with President Collor's orientation calls for making progress, one step at a time, until a less traumatic solution is reached. A more uncompromising posture at this time could provoke resistance in the Congress itself to the government's bill that provides for the definitive elimination of the market reserve for the informatics industry.

This strategy could could even make sense and be the correct one. It provides still another breathing spell to enable those industries that continue under protection to prove that they will be able to reduce their prices and increase their competitiveness. They have 60 days, after which everything could change. Some doubts persist, however, as to what will happen from this point on. In short, the domestic informatics sector has succeeded until now in postponing solutions, in delaying measures that the government had pledged to adopt on a priority basis. The president of the Republic and the minister of the economy have spared neither adjectives nor energy in denouncing the reserve, which according to Professor Zelia Cardoso de Mello is responsible for the backwardness of all Brazilian industry, which is unable to import informatics products and is thereby obliged to use other informatics products—produced here—that are obsolete and expensive. Everyone heard that formal pledge.

We have always adopted a posture of caution, of questioning the definitive character of that decision. And we have always said that it would be better to "wait and see." We are waiting, and we are seeing that once again everything has been postponed. The protection persists, although it is true that each time the grace period has been shorter, more restricted. This time, in principle, it is an additional 60 days. But who is going to make the decisions concerning these programs? It is the department that replaced the Special Secretariat of Informatics, which is under the control of the Secretariat of Science and Technology. The latter has, however, adopted a position that is clearly protectionist and is in overt opposition to the position adopted by the Ministry of the Economy and by the president of the Republic himself.

We therefore have no reason to harbor any optimism with regard to future developments in connection with this question. The postponements may continue for a while, under the most diverse pretexts. And in this way,

one step at a time, the reserve in the informatics sector will continue to be maintained, to the despair of the Brazilian industry.

*** Opposition Plots Post-Election Strategy**

91SM0051A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Oct 90 p B-4

[Article by Clovis Rossi]

[Text] At the party's national convention in March, Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia, 51, will take over the presidency of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], to lead it to oppose the Fernando Collor administration: at least this is the plan of the political managers of the Quercia project.

FOLHA has learned from Joao Oswaldo Leiva, 55, one of Quercia's shield-bearers, former secretary of public works, and currently a candidate for state deputy, that the Quercia plan has already been checked out with Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, current president of the PMDB. Ulysses will run for the presidency of the Federal Chamber, since, logically, the PMDB has a relative majority in the legislature. Ulysses, 73, told FOLHA last week that he had never had any problems with Quercia and added: "We are going to reach an understanding." Ulysses had been asked specifically about the presidency of the PMDB.

According to Federal Deputy Tidei de Lima, 45, who is a candidate for reelection, not even a defeat of the Quercistas in the second round of the Sao Paulo election will scuttle their project. "A victory for Maluf would be a victory for Collor and the purpose of our project is to oppose Collor," Tidei de Lima explained.

In any event, it is wise not to take the oppositionist intentions of the Quercistas too literally. Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho, 41, their candidate for governor of Sao Paulo, uses the term "independent" and not "oppositionist" to describe the position he would prefer in his relationship with the federal government. Joao Leiva is even more pragmatic. "There is no way to take an opposition stand, because the state government's dependence on the federal government is enormous."

Tidei de Lima swears, however, that even before the new Quercia-led PMDB began to emerge, the present PMDB "had already begun a process of isolating those in the Federal Chamber who are not in unity with the party." The goal: to make the PMDB the "leader of the moderate opposition to the Collor administration.

For the time being, the operation is commanded by Ibsen Pinheiro (Rio Grande do Sul), PMDB leader in the Chamber, seen as one of the principal pillars of support for the new Quercista PMDB.

The new PMDB not only has preferential allies, but also individuals for whom Quercism is going to create such problems as to drive them out of the party. Prominent among these are governors Moreira Franco (Rio de Janeiro) and Newton Cardoso (Minas Gerais) and the PMDB candidates for governor of Amazonas (Gilberto Mestrinho, virtually elected in the first round) and of Para (Jader Barbalho, who should face PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] candidate Said Xerfan in the second round).

From an electoral standpoint, Quercism appears to be doing quite well. It succeeded in carrying Fleury to the second round in Sao Paulo and saw two of its preferred candidates receive an impressive vote. They are Iris Rezende, practically elected governor of Goias in the first round, and Pedro Simon, already as much as elected senator in Rio Grande do Sul.

The biggest defeat for the Quercistas was in Pernambuco State, where Joaquim Francisco (PFL [Liberal Front Party]) should defeat Jarbas Vasconcelos (PMDB). Ideologically speaking, however, Jarbas' ties to Quercism should be seen as minimal. As national vice president of the PMDB, Jarbas, 48, has a vision of the party's future that does not even remotely resemble that of the Quercistas. "However the election comes out, I think the PMDB and all the progressive forces in the country will have to sit down at the table," Jarbas said. "It was a serious mistake not to have done this right after the second round of the presidential election."

Here Jarbas is referring to the case of Pernambuco, where, in the second round in 1989, the local PMDB, the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], the PDT [Democratic Worker's Party], and both Communist parties all united behind the candidacy of Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva, of the PT [Workers Party]. It is obvious that these are not the parties with which Quercia is planning an alliance in his project to run for president in 1994, an operation that will begin in March with the presidency of the PMDB.

Quercia already announced on television, during the campaign, that when he leaves the governor's office in January, he will devote himself to organizing a "national party, based on the PMDB." He did not say, but it was implicit, that this party would be the base of support for his presidential candidacy in 1994.

However there are disagreements within the Sao Paulo PMDB itself as to what form this new party will take. The PMDB rank and file, particularly in the interior, imagine that the new PMDB would be, in practice, the old MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement]. But there are sectors within the party which suppose that the new grouping will be similar in form to the coalition that supports the Fleury candidacy, i.e., bringing in the PL [Liberal Party] of Guilherme Afif Domingos and the Sao Paulo PFL.

Anti-Collor Bloc Proposed

Federal Deputy Euclides Scalco (Parana), 58, leader of the PSDB in the Federal Chamber, will use his farewell address to the Congress to propose the formation of a Social Democratic bloc in opposition to the Fernando

Collor government. Scalco was the defeated PSDB candidate for vice governor of Parana; since he did not run for reelection to the Congress, he will be leaving the Chamber at the end of his term.

Scalco's address will actually be the first step in a process, of indeterminate length, the goal of which is to bring together the Social Democratic forces that are now dispersed in different parties. Scalco lists these forces: the PSDB, the PDT, part of the PMDB, and sectors of the PT, including the "Articulation" group led by Lula.

Scalco's proposal partly coincides with the theory of Airton Soares, 44, president of the Sao Paulo PDT, an idea which FOLHA anticipated yesterday: to combine the PSDB and the PDT to create a single Social Democratic group in the country. Although Scalco does not go this far, stopping at a parliamentary bloc, FOLHA has learned that, in the judgment of the PSDB leadership, the election defeat day before yesterday "compromises the survival of the PSDB."

It is possible that the PSDB will revise this first assessment, made in a state of shock because of the brutal figures, but the fact is that the assessment is the same outside the PSDB, as well. Senator Jarbas Passarinho (Para), aged 70, who is PDS [Social Democratic Party] leader in the Senate and is usually a clear-headed political analyst, thinks the PSDB runs the risk of falling into the same situation as that of the old Brazilian Socialist Party: "a macrocephalic party, without a body." The old PDB, which was eliminated in 1965 along with the other 12 parties of the period, had leaders with great intellectual prestige, but few followers.

In a way, the analysis that is being made in the wing of the PSDB associated with Franco Montoro, its national president, leads to the same conclusion. Qualitative surveys conducted throughout the campaign indicated that "the party does not know how to interpret what the mass of the disinherited is thinking," according to an evaluation which FOLHA obtained from the Montoristas. Day before yesteray, shortly after he voted, the 74-year-old Montoro himself complained to FOLHA that the "major media conducted an indiscriminate campaign against the politicians," which he believes may be one of the reasons for the poor showing of the PSDB. However, Montoro could not explain why a supposed campaign against politicians in general would have caused election defeats specifically for the PSDB.

Scalso prefers to conduct a stricter situational analysis. He believes that, to win elections, you must have at least two of three conditions: party organization (or government organization, when your party is in power); money; and a candidate. "In Parana, we only had the candidate, and we lost. In Ceara, we had the candidate and the government, and we won," Scalco said.

PDT Questions Loss

Tired of taking habitual beatings in Sao Paulo, Leonel Brizola's PDT decided to bring a little science to its analysis of the Sao Paulo electorate's instinctive aversion to the party.

Airton Soares, PDT regional president, is only waiting for the final results of Wednesday's elections to take two steps: 1. Order a full study to find out why the PDT cannot get anywhere in Sao Paulo; 2. Hold a seminar to discuss the same topic in depth.

"We are going to try to go to the historical origins of the problem between Sao Paulo and the labor movement," Airton Soares says. He thinks it is necessary to go back at least as far as 1932, when Sao Paulo's nascent industrial bourgeoisie and the rural oligarchy even took up arms against Getulio Vargas. "After all, Brizola is the heir of Vargas," the PDT president declared in Sao Paulo.

Solving the Sao Paulo problem is vital to the future of the PDT, if the party has any serious intention of becoming a national party and, at the same time, of making Leonel Brizola a kind of leader of the opposition to the Fernando Collor government.

Part of this project calls for fusion with the PSDB, to create a single Social Democratic party. The PDT members do not hide their satisfaction at Franco Montoro's defeat in the Sao Paulo senatorial election, because they see Montoro as an obstacle to the desired unification, particularly because of his remote origins in Christian Democracy.

At the international level, Christian Democracy is the direct rival of Social Democracy, the international current with which the PDT is associated.

The PDT-PSDB alliance was frequently a factor in the elections day before yesterday. The two parties ran together in 13 states. In six of them, the PSD supported the PSDB candidate for governor. In three others, the reverse was true. In the rest, the two parties supported candidates of third parties (the PMDB in Pernambuco and Tocantins, and the PSC [Social Christian Party] in Alagoas, where Federal Deputy Geraldo Bulhoes was the PSC candidate).

"Many of these alliances may survive," dreams Airton Soares. Even the frontal disagreement over the system of government could be overcome. The PSDB is the only Brazilian party whose program advocates the parliamentarist system, whereas Leonel Brizola has always been a confirmed and intransigent presidentialist.

More recently, however, the national president of the PDT has begun to promote frank debate within the party regarding presidentialist and parliamentarist systems, without imposing his traditional presidentialist position.

PT Discusses Alliances

In its post-election discussions, the PT will give priority to the topic of political alliances. A good many of the party leaders and intellectuals associated with the party do not hide their irritation at the state leaders for having refused to form coalitions with gubernatorial candidates Leonel Brizola (PDT) in Rio de Janeiro, and Jarbas Vasconcelos (PMDB), in Pernambuco.

"Alliances in these states would have greater national repercussions than the simple resolution of two localized problems," in the opinion, for one, of sociologist Marco Aurelio Garcia, 49, PT secretary of international relations.

Jose Genoino Neto (Sao Paulo), 44, federal deputy and candidate for reelection, included a third federative unit (the Federal District) among the locales where the PT should have allied with other political forces instead of launching its own candidate.

Discussion of alliances is not limited merely to elections. Although the final results are not in yet, Paulo Okamoto, 34, president of the PT in Sao Paulo, is already anticipating that this year's elections will not have confirmed the broadening social base of support for the party that was imagined before the elections. This is the crux of any discussion of future alliances.

It will also be the crux of the internal discussion regarding the PT position in the second round of the Sao Paulo State elections, although this is much more a matter of circumstance.

In addition to the alliances, or related to this discussion, another important topic on the PT agenda is the branch of socialism desired by the party for Brazil. In September-October 1991, the PT will hold its first national congress and a specific PT proposal for socialism should finally take form.

"The PT is going to enter a new phase, that of affirming itself as a governmental alternative, and, for this reason, it must define its program better," says Deputy Jose Genoino.

On the purely parliamentary level, the tendency of the PT bench in the National Congress—which the party imagines will be almost double the size of the bench elected in 1986 (16 deputies and no senator)—will be to try to unite the forces of the Left and Center Left around what Jose Genoino calls an "assertion of the autonomy of the Congress."

The PT leadership believes Collor will have enormous difficulty living with a truly independent National Congress. The PT believes it can use the experience accumulated during the constituent Congress (1987-1989), in which groups of the Left and Center Left, working together, managed to achieve important victories on some items.

Chile

Foreign Minister Unaware of Note Sent to Bush

PY0711161790 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 30 Oct 90 p 4

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has denied being involved in the drafting of a "note" that was reportedly sent to U.S. President George Bush urging him to cancel his visit to Chile in December if his government does not lift the two amendments that hinder the sale of weapons and the inclusion of Chile in the Generalized System of Preferences. These two points affect relations between the two countries. Asked to comment on a press report that the Chilean Government has sent a harsh message to Washington, Silva Cimma said: "I have had absolutely nothing to do with the matter, and I know nothing about it."

Silva Cimma briefly referred to the matter following a meeting of the International Economic Policy Committee at the Foreign Ministry. This meeting lasted approximately one and a half hours. [passage omitted]

When asked about this ultimatum that the Chilean Government has reportedly sent to President Bush, Silva Cimma said: "I know nothing about a 'strong warning.' I have heard nothing about it." When asked if he was able to deny the existence of the "note," Silva Cimma said: "I cannot deny it because I know nothing about it." [passage omitted]

Minister Disgusted With Death Penalty Decision

PY0811001890 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido has voiced his disgust with the Senate's decision not to abolish the death penalty. During a debate that lasted more than four hours, the Senate approved a project that completely modified the essence of the original draft bill submitted by the executive branch, which called for abolishment of the death penalty. According to the text approved by the Senate, the death penalty will apply to about 30 crimes listed in the penal code, the state security law, the law on terrorist activities, and the military code when it refers to crimes during times of war.

During the lengthy debate, which was quite heated, frequent mistakes and clarifications were made, which Minister Cumplido referred to as serious inconsistencies. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With CSFR

PY0811011890 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] A thawing and resumption of relations with Eastern Europe has begun with the signing of a cooperation agreement between Chile and the CSFR. This was

stated by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma who, together with the Czechoslovak deputy foreign trade minister, (Jan Koletz), signed the cooperation agreement between the two countries during a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry's Red Hall today.

In referring to the paralyzation of relations during the dictatorship in Chile, Silva Cimma noted the prospects for this agreement.

[Begin Silva recording] In signing this cooperation agreement between Chile and the CSFR, we are placing a cornerstone in our bilateral relations after 17 years of no diplomatic relations. This lack of an official relationship even affected bilateral trade. Chilean trade with Eastern Europe—where we have not maintained diplomatic relations with most of the countries—amounted to 1.1 percent of Chile's trade with the rest of the world in 1989. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Netherlands

PY0811015490 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 1 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Yesterday Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma signed an economic and technological cooperation agreement with the Netherlands. This cooperation agreement will benefit the industrial, forestry, energy, land exploitation, and environmental protection sectors.

The agreement was signed by Netherlands Trade Minister [title as published] Ivonne Van Rooy, who represented the Netherlands Government. Van Rooy is visiting Santiago to carry out a series of diplomatic and economic negotiations with the objective of strengthening bilateral ties.

Speaking during the ceremony at the Foreign Ministry's Red Hall, Foreign Minister Silva Cimma said that Chilean-Netherlands ties are based "on a common democratic ideal and common interests to achieve the development and well-being of our peoples."

The agreement establishes rules and guidelines for cooperation in specified areas and for the rational use of resources.

Van Rooy informed Silva Cimma of her country's wish to finance the development of cooperation programs for prospecting in the Atacama and Coquimbo regions to aid in the development of small mining plants and mines. This includes a cooperation program to carry out feasibility studies for a phosphate fertilizer plant that would use surplus sulphuric acid extracted from the El Teniente mine.

Pinochet Reportedly Proposes Candidate

PY0811020490 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 27 Oct 90 p 12

[Excerpt] Political and independent circles have been surprised by a radio station report that Army Commander in Chief General Augusto Pinochet has virtually proclaimed Manuel Feliu, chairman of the Production and Commerce Confederation, as a candidate for the 1993 presidential election.

This rumor originated from a private dinner Feliu gave for Pinochet and his wife on the evening of 25 October. The meal was attended by 50 prominent couples, most of them business leaders, including Sergio Silva Bascunan and Recaredo Ossa, former chairmen of the Production and Commerce Confederation. Also attending the dinner was General Jorge Ballerino, chief of the Army Advisory Committee.

According to a report aired by a radio commentator at the end of the dinner, amid the toasts General Pinochet reportedly praised Feliu and proposed him as a candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Involvement of Israeli Commando in Attack Denied

PY0711203190 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The Israeli Embassy has rejected press reports that an alleged Jewish commando known as Mossad [as heard] perpetrated the attack on a restaurant in Vina del Mar. During the attack seven people, most of the them U.S. Marines, were injured. According to a communique released by the Israeli Embassy, radical Arab and other sectors are highly interested in involving Israel in the Persian Gulf crisis to distract public attention from those truly responsible for the situation, and to smear the image of the country.

Peruvian Fisheries Minister Arrives for Visit

PY0811021290 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 30 Oct 90 p 19

[Excerpt] In response to an official invitation from the Undersecretariat of Fisheries, Peruvian Fisheries Minister Raul Sanchez Sotomayor has arrived in Chile for a three-day official visit.

The Peruvian visitor, who met with Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma yesterday, stressed the need to promote coordination between the Peruvian and Chilean fisheries sectors through various mechanisms, such as a permanent exchange of information on sea resources and a possible joint exploitation of that sector in the future. [passage omitted]

Bomb Explodes at Mormon Church in Concepcion

PY0711154590 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 1 Nov 90 p 35

[Report by Jose Miguel Concha S.]

[Excerpts] Penco—A bomb exploded at a Mormon church early on the morning on 31 October. It had been planted by unidentified individuals, and it partially

damaged a wall of the church and the windows of two adjacent houses. [passage omitted]

Personnel of the Carabineros Special Police Activities (PAE) from Concepcion found that the bomb comprised 100 grams of anfo [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasting agents] and a slow fuse. It has been also reported that leaflets with slogans of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front were found at the site, but no subversive group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Unidentified Individuals Kidnap Journalist

PA0811035590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0244 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Bogota, 7 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The Metropolitan Police have reported that tonight a group of unidentified individuals kidnapped Journalist Maruja Pachon de Villanizar, director of the state-run Cinema Financial Fund [Fondo Financiero Cinematografico] (Focine).

According to the initial official reports, Pachon de Villanizar—wife of Congressman Alberto Villanizar Cardenas—was kidnapped together with her sister-in-law, Beatriz Villanizar, at a neighborhood in Bogota's northern sector a little after 2000.

The kidnappers intercepted the car in which the two women were traveling, shot the driver, and took them away.

Pachon de Villanizar, 40, was Senator Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento's sister-in-law. The senator was assassinated in August 1989 when he was the Liberal Party's presidential candidate.

So far no group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Pachon de Villanizar, who is also a former EL TIEMPO editor, and her sister-in-law.

During the past 70 days, seven other journalists have been kidnapped, including German correspondent Hero Buss; Diana Turbay Quintero, former President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's daughter; and EL TIEMPO's chief editor Francisco Santos Calderon.

Extraditables Protest Violations of Human Rights

PA0711222090 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Extraditables have sent a letter to Juan Gomez Martinez, former mayor of Medellin and now a candidate for the National Constituent Assembly.

Among other things, the letter said that they did not kidnap our colleagues with the intention of hurting them. The communique added: This action was carried out to protest before the international public the torture and massacres we have suffered from the Dijin [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations].

In their note released to the media today, The Extraditables also stressed that extradition is not their main priority; their main priority is their demand for respect for human rights. Therefore, they asked Gomez Martinez to include this subject in their demands or in possible talks with the government. Here is a report on the communique released today by The Extraditables.

In their communique, The Extraditables said that their hostages have received good treatment. They added: Our intention is not to hurt them, but to protest the massacres committed by some military institutions, such as the Dijin and the elite corps of the National Police.

The Extraditables requested that a human rights commission investigate the violations committed by authorities against youths in Medellin. They claim that more than 300 youths have been killed.

The document said that their main concern is not the Extradition Treaty, but the violation of human rights and murders. They criticized the fact that arrests are made without arrest warrants. They also questioned the fact that photographs of innocent children appear in wanted posters.

The communique concluded that they want peace to return to the homes of the kidnapped journalists.

This was a summary of the communique made public by The Extraditables in a letter to Juan Gomez Martinez in Medellin.

M-19's Navarro Wolff Denies Trafficking Charges

PA0811020890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] Antonio Navarro Wolff, constituent assembly candidate for the 19 April Movement [M-19] Democratic Alliance, has said that it is not true that his movement has been or is involved in drug trafficking activities here in Colombia or abroad. He was rejecting reports from the U.S. Embassy in Colombia.

Antonio Navarro says that the importance attached to the attorney general's decision to dismiss former Army Commander General Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales—for his handling of the events at the Justice building—is aimed at countering the favoritism that Gen. Arias Cabrales has, according to polls on the constituent assembly elections.

[Navarro] *Every effort is being made to weaken us, but Colombia can no longer be easily scared or deceived. Colombian citizens have proven that they have matured quickly, politically speaking.*

Nevertheless, the M-19 Democratic Alliance does not have the slightest fear about the repercussions that these events may have in the people's opinion.

[Navarro] *I trust the Colombians: those who support me and those who do not support me. They will carefully consider the best options on 9 December, and they will vote conscientiously.*

According to Navarro Wolff, the importance given to Gen. Arias Cabrales' case is only the beginning of a defamation campaign.

[Navarro] *I think that the efforts made to scare the people will fail because the Colombians are experienced people.*

Referring to the Senate's decision to order Gen. Arias Cabrales' promotion, he said:

[Navarro] *With due respect for the senators, I think this is simply opportunism.*

In addition, talking about the U.S. Embassy's insinuation that the M-19 was involved in drug trafficking activities in the past, Navarro said:

[Navarro] *There is absolutely no possibility of linking me to drug trafficking activities. I do maintain my position, however, which is the M-19's clear position, about extradition.*

Peru

Bomb Explodes Near U.S. Ambassador's Residence

PY0811113290 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1116 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Subversive attacks have been staged in Lima, one very near the residence of U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton. A night-school student was injured in this mad wave of attacks.

Police personnel and (?EDI) members are here, near the 9th block of Arequipa Avenue, near the Leguia Theater, where a bomb reportedly went off at Reserva Park. Subversive leaflets were found in the area. The police have gathered them and are analyzing them here in the vicinity of Reserva Park.

Foreign Minister on Japanese Aid, Andean Summit

PY0711211590 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Luis Marchand Stens has confirmed that President Alberto Fujimori will attend the Andean presidential summit that will take place in Bolivia in late November.

He confirmed this after he and Japanese Ambassador to Peru Masaki Seo signed two important grant-in-aid cooperation agreements that are worth $5.4 million. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified reporter] An Andean summit will be held in La Paz on 29-30 November. Will the president attend?

[Marchand] No, yes [as heard]. I have talked with President Fujimori, and he is fully aware of the importance of this Andean presidential summit that will be held in La Paz, I think around 29 November if my memory does not fail me.

The Andean presidents will be present, and President Fujimori will also be present. He has told me that he will be with his counterparts—the other Andean presidents.

I cannot be sure, but it is possible that Brazilian President Collor de Mello and Argentine President Menem will also attend this summit on the last day.

[Reporter] Has any proposal been outlined that Peru will take to that....?

[Marchand, interrupting] We are studying it because, how can I explain this to you, these summits are not improvised. These summits form a succession of meetings of Andean presidents and Andean foreign ministers.

Therefore, in this summit it will be essential to activate the Andean process and establish joint positions on President Bush's Initiative for the Americas.

I would say that these are the two most important points on the agenda, which obviously is an open agenda. The basic points of the agenda cover activating the Andean Group, improving its dynamics, and establishing positive positions—of course—with respect to President Bush's Initiative for the Americas. [end recording]

Commission Reports Political Violence Totals

PY0711230290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1317 GMT 6 Nov 90

[All figures as received]

[Text] The Senate commission investigating political violence in Peru has reported that in the period between 1980 and the current date, 2,932 people died as a result of this phenomenon. The commission is headed by Socialist Senator Enrique Bernales Ballesteros.

According to the figures supplied by this commission, a total of 308 people, including 56 peasants, 31 military men, nine policemen, four civilian authorities, and 156 terrorists, died in October in 159 attacks throughout the country.

Bernales reported that so far this year, damage to the electric power network, the terrorists' main target, has totaled $518 million.

Since May 1980, when the Shining Path terrorist organization began its activities in the Ayacucho mountain range, terrorist and counterterrorist actions have claimed the lives of 18,743 people, of which 8,103 died during Fernando Belaunde's second term (1980-1985);

9,660 during Alan Garcia's administration (1985-1990), and 980 in the first hundred days of President Alberto Fujimori's current administration.

So far this year a total of 1,789 attacks have taken place, of which 1,245 were perpetrated by the Shining Path terrorist organization, and the rest by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] or unidentified groups.

According to the commission, a large number of rebels have died each year: 1,226 terrorists died in 1990, 1,161 in 1989, and 416 in 1988.

Material damage caused by terrorist attacks in the past 10 years is estimated at $17 billion, the commission added.

First Vice President To Visit Argentina

PY0711214790 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0036 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Lima, 3 Nov (TELAM-XINHUA)—Maximo San Roman Caceres, the Peruvian first vice president and Senate president, will travel to Buenos Aires soon to open, with his Argentine counterpart, a seminar on small and medium-size industries; a seminar that will be attended by high-ranking international leaders.

According to information supplied today by the Argentine Embassy in Peru, the international conference on small and medium-size industries will be held between 12 and 15 November. The date on which the Peruvian first vice president will arrive in Argentina has not yet been set.

It is already known that Argentina will grant $3 million to the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy for the installation of a nuclear center in Huarangal.

Argentine Embassy sources have indicated that a nuclear center in Peru will be used to preserve foodstuffs and for medical purposes for the benefit of all Peruvians.

Three Terrorist Attacks Reported in Lima

PY0711164590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Lima, 6 Nov (EFE)—The police have reported that terrorists detonated bombs during three separate attacks in the San Isidro district of Lima. One explosion completely destroyed a vehicle and caused considerable damage to offices and houses, but did not cause any casualties.

The vehicle was parked on a street near the San Agustin School and the Continental Bank building. It caught fire following the explosion of a bomb hurled by unidentified individuals. The vehicle belongs to a dairy products company. The explosion also shattered the windows and damaged the doors of nearby houses.

Another bomb exploded outside a store some 200 meters from the Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] building and from the Andean Pact headquarters.

The third attack occurred at the entrance of a parking lot at the rear of a commercial office building. The explosion destroyed the entrance and shattered the windows of adjacent houses.

Two Soldiers Killed in Clash With Terrorists

PY0811110690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] A Shining Path column last night attacked the Llauta police post in Casma. During the savage clash, Corporals (Ruben Culla Huapalla) and Riquelme Cruz Alegre were killed, while Sergeant Felix Cabrera was seriously injured.

The terrorists entered the police post inside a dump truck, having first killed its unidentified driver.

Terrorist Actions Reported Throughout Country

PY0711204890

[Editorial Report] Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 28, 29, and 31 October and Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish on 30 October carry reports on terrorist activities in various part of the country.

On 28 October, EXPRESO carries on page 17 a 250-word article reporting that the political-military command headquartered in San Martin has ordered the arrest of three doctors from Tarapoto: Rosa Wong, Neptali Santillan Ruiz, and Segundo Diaz. They are charged with involvement with the terrorists who, on 19 November, seriously injured General Mario Brito, the San Martin political and military chief, and murdered his driver and two other people, and with giving assistance to wounded terrorists.

On 29 October EXPRESO carries on page 10 a 250-word article reporting that the Shining Path terrorist organization is carrying out a "slow, but effective" campaign aimed at indoctrinating Peruvian teachers. According to the report, this was confirmed on 28 October during the "In Person" program broadcast by Lima Television Channel 4. "Education Minister Gloria Helfer herself admitted that this terrorist organization is exerting direct pressure on teachers in troubled zones, where the terrorists order them to disseminate the objective of the 'armed struggle' among the students."

The same issue of the newspaper carries on page 8 a 200-word article reporting that Shining Path terrorists bombed a high-tension pylon causing a blackout in 50 townships in Yungay, Carhuaz, Huaraz, Recuay, and Aija Provinces, forcing several small industries located along Huaylas Street to suspend their activities. Police sources reported that this attack was perpetrated by alleged Shining Path terrorists disguised as students of

the Yungay Technological Higher Institute; these terrorists have resumed their activities in the Sierra zone in Ancash Department.

On 31 October EXPRESO carries on page 8 a 100-word article reporting that a police patrol arrested three Shining Path terrorists as they were about to knock down high-tension pylons in the Nocheto and Vicentelo Bajo shantytowns in El Agustino area. The terrorists were identified as Anchote Velasquez, Alexander Hugo Rivas, and Jose Cabrera Briones. Dynamite, fuses, homemade bombs, and a large amount of subversive propaganda were found in their possession.

In its 30 October issue EL COMERCIO carries on page A 9 a 120-word article reporting that two policemen died and several were wounded during a 29 October terrorist attack on the Nueva Cajamarca District police station, in Rioja Province.

Venezuela

Indonesian Cultural Attache Murdered in Caracas

PA0711170590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1453 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Caracas, 7 Nov (AFP)— Diplomat Eppino Mohamed Saleh, a 57-year-old cultural attache at the Indonesian Embassy in Caracas, was found strangled yesterday in his apartment, located in eastern Caracas, it was reported today by the Venezuela Technical Judicial Police (PTJ).

Saleh had worked in the embassy for 10 years, and he lived alone in a rented apartment located in Santa Fe neighborhood in eastern Caracas.

His apartment was in complete disarray. Saleh's body was found on the bed, showing clear signs of violence and death by strangling, the PTJ officials said.

Saleh was a quiet person who seldom spoke with his neighbors, who had noticed nothing unusual until 6 November when the police arrived to break down the door. Saleh was extremely punctual at his job, so his fellow embassy workers—upon noticing his inexplicable absence on 5 November—contacted the local authorities.

Violence and crime has worsened in Caracas and throughout Venezuela for the past two years, according to police and newspaper statistics.

Venezuela and Indonesia, members of OPEC, have maintained full diplomatic relations for the past two decades.

Guyana

Suriname Responds to Harassment Claims

FL0711221590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1948 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 7, CANA—The Surinamese authorities say they have moved to checked molestation of Guyanese using the Corentyne River that separates the two countries, the official Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA) reported. The agency said Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson told a delegation from the Guyana Forest Products Association [FPA] that Georgetown had received the assurance that steps had been taken to check molestation.

For several months now, Guyanese fishermen and loggers, in particular, have been complaining about being harassed and about having their goods and equipment seized by Surinamese nationals on the Corentyne River. The river falls under Suriname's jurisdiction.

The GPCA statement did not report Jackson as saying what measures the Surinamese authorities have put in place. It however quoted one member of the association as saying that in recent time, the Surinamese Government authorities had been seen patrolling the river. He was also reported as saying that on a recent trip on the river he did not encounter the difficulties which he had previously faced. GPCA said Jackson also discussed with the FPA delegation approaches to be made through diplomatic channels to secure the release and return of equipment which had been seized from Guyanese.